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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, January 29, 1874.

SENATE.

Mr. Graham, of Allegheny, called up the act to validate acts done by corporations prior to the recording of their charter. Passed.

Mr. Waream introduced a bill regulating all legal advertising.

Mr. Warfel introduced a bill fixing the time for all city, ward or borough officers to qualify. It provides that all such officers shall hold their respective offices until the first Monday of April next succeeding the expiration of the term to which they would otherwise be entitled under existing laws, and the term of all officers hereafter elected on the third Tuesday of February, shall commence and terminate on the first Monday of April.

The Election bill, as amended in the House, passed finally—yeas, 28, nays 2.

Mr. Bechtel offered a resolution to adjourn the Senate in honor of ex-Chief Justice Thompson. Eulogies were pronounced by Messrs. Bechtel, White, McClure, Wallace and Anderson, of Allegheny.

The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

Mr. Mayer, of Bradford, introduced a bill to regulate taxes on corporations.

Mr. Little, of Wyoming—Giving to courts power to change the venue in criminal cases on the grounds of local excitement or popular prejudice rendering a fair trial impossible, in civil cases where the subject matter of controversy is situated in another county and the parties and witnesses, or a majority of them, reside therein, and in cases where the trial cannot be had principles rendering a fair trial impossible.

Petitions for the repeal of Sunday laws were presented by Messrs. Wilcox, McCune and Baird.

Mr. Piper presented the petition of 5,000 citizens of Westmoreland county, praying for the repeal of the Local Option laws.

Mr. Thompson, of Fayette—Regulating borough lines when in adjoining counties.

Mr. Newmyer asked leave of absence for Mr. Orvis.

Mr. Cross, of Beaver, reported an act appropriating $35,000 to the State Lunatic Asylum.

Mr. Young asked leave of absence for Mr. Potter.

Mr. Mitchell introduced an act to encourage and develop the mineral resources of the Commonwealth.

Mr. Webb, of Bradford, reported favorably the bill to pay for advertising the new Constitution.

Mr. Hays—A supplement to the general gas and water law.

Mr. Allen, of Warren—An act submitting the question of facts in civil cases to the courts; also, to secure a more strict accountability of county officers.

Mr. Christy—An act relative to the transfer of the estates of married women; also, fixing the number of jurors in sheriff's juries.

Mr. Newmyer called for a final vote on his bill for the organization of Orphans' Courts. Agreed to—yeas 94, nays none.

Mr. Cooper Talley, of Delaware, then introduced a resolution relative to the death of Chief Justice Thompson, once an honorable Member and Speaker of this House, and moved an adjournment as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased. Agreed to, and the House adjourned.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, January 30, 1874.

SENATE.

The remonstrance of the Society of Friends against the repeal of the Local Option law was presented.

A commission of inspection of the State fisheries was appointed.

The bill authorizing married women owning stocks to transfer the same as if unmarried, passed finally.

General A. T. A. Tarbet, of Paris, France, and R. B. Valentine, Jr., of New York, were appointed Commissioners of Deeds.

Mr. McClure offered a bill authorizing county commissioners to offer rewards for the violation of election laws.

The General Election bill was to-day signed by the Speakers of both Houses and the Governor, and is therefore now a law.

HOUSE.

Mr. Newmyer reported favorably a bill fixing the salaries of Judges of the Supreme Court at $9,000; Judges of the Common Pleas in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, $7,000, and of other law judges at $5,000.

Mr. Brockway—A bill regarding the Interest laws.

Mr. Butler, of Cumberland—To revise the License law.

Mr. Wilcox—To provide for the uniform collection of taxes.

Mr. Thompson—A petition for the passage of a prohibitory law.

The debate on a motion to adjourn over occupied nearly all the morning hour.

Mr. Talley's resolutions of respect to Judge Thompson were called up and eulogies pronounced by Messrs. Butterfield, of Erie; Strasshan, of Mercer; Marshall, of Bucks; Talley, of Wyoming; Brockway and Speaker McCormick.

District Attorney Bayne and F. M. Magee are here, accompanied by their wives.

The House adjourned till to-morrow.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, February 2, 1874.

HOUSE.

The House met at two o'clock. At the roll-call only forty-eight answered—three less than a quorum. The Sergeant-at-Arms went after the absentees, particularly after Mr. Webb, of Bradford, and Stranahan, of Mercer, who had voted against an adjournment. Mr. Hays, of Allegheny, was caught at the dinner table and brought up to the House. This made a quorum, when numerous petitions were presented praying for the repeal of the Local Option law.

Mr. Piper presented a petition signed by six hundred citizens of Westmoreland county, in favor of repeal.

Attorney General Dimmick, in answer to Mr. Hays's resolution, answered that the Legislature could repeal the Local Option Law if it so decided.

Mr. Little read a bill authorizing cities and towns to purchase the corporate rights of gas and water companies.

Mr. Christy—To provide for a proper increase of corporate indebtedness.

Mr. Butterfield, of Erie—An act permitting defendants in all criminal cases to testify.

Mr. Dimmick, of Wyoming—An act relating to the sale of intoxicating liquor and to make the License law more effectual.

Speaker McCormick is confined to his room.

Mrs. Onslow, wife of James Onslow, fell down the steps of the Lochiel Hotel and was severely injured.

The Senate is not in session. The judicial apportionment bill has been completed by Senator Rutan and will be reported on Wednesday.

Dr. Sherlock, Clerk of the House, announces that he has purchased an interest in the Beaver *Radical*.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, January 27, 1874.

The Senate this morning took up and passed finally, a bill to perfect the title of property sold by one co-trustee or co-executor to another; and an act to enable the officers of dissolved corporations to convey the real estate held by such corporations.

The bills read yesterday a first time, were all to-day passed a second time, and laid over for a third reading, except the Centennial Appropriation bill, which was postponed for the present, and the bill relating to the payment of costs in cases of appeal from the reports of viewers, which was indefinitely postponed. Several of the others were slightly amended. And the Senate having again exhausted its calendar, adjourned.

The House passed the Senate Election law, as amended, yeas 76, nays 18—all Democrats, but the amended bill did not reach the Senate in time to be acted upon. The only material amendment made in it is in requiring *an Assessor to be elected in each election district*, instead of each ward, borough and township, as heretofore. Thus all of your wards which are divided into two precincts, and all of the townships, such as Elizabeth, which has four, and Robinson, Scott, Patton, Wilkins, Indiana and Versailles, which have two each, *will have to elect an Assessor for each precinct*.

Your people in those districts, therefore, which are divided into two or more precincts, may as well prepare to nominate an assessor in each. The new law requires it, and no matter how much it may be ridiculed or resisted, it will be well for you that you are authorized to appoint Assessors in those districts which now have none, and the Assessors so appointed in the precincts not now supplied with Assessors residing in their bounds, will have to make out the Registry list for the February election. These precincts, therefore, which now have no Assessor living within their bound., cannot move too soon in getting Assessors appointed.

The Centennial Appropriation bill having been postponed for the present, it is presumable that there is a Constitutional difficulty in the way which its friends are as yet unable to overcome. Their ingenuity may possibly hereafter enable them to get round it; but it has not yet found out the way. The Constitution provides that a two-thirds vote in both Houses may appropriate money to "charitable or educational institutions," but the Centennial is not of this class, and it prohibits appropriations "for charitable, benevolent or educational purposes to any person or community," but the Centennial is neither one or the other of these and hence is not among the direct prohibitions. The only conclusion possible to those who contend for the appropriation is that it is not directly prohibited *is permitted*; but this is a very latitudinarian construction and will lead to difficulties, if once established.

The colleges of the State sent in a very queer document to-day, which was presented, at their request, by Mr. Graham. It claims that the colleges in the State are *"charitable institutions,"* and should therefore be exempt from *taxation*. The Constitution says that the Legislature may, by general laws, exempt from *taxation* "institutions of *purely public charity*." The college Presidents argue that their institutions are *public* and *charitable*; but they are wise in not undertaking to show that they were "institutions of purely public charity." That the colleges are not and never were; and the signers might have saved the expenditure of logic they have indulged in, for it comes so far short of the point presented by the Constitution, that it amounts to nothing. Logicians, it is said, prove nothing when they prove too much; but they also prove nothing effectual when they prove too little. No one doubts that the colleges of the State are public, and, to some extent, charitable; but, admitting all that the college Presidents claim, in these respects, the college property is still not entitled, constitutionally, to exemption from taxation. Colleges which charge for the tuition of their inmates are not "institutions of purely public charity" in any imaginable sense, and although their case is a hard one, they cannot be exempted from taxation.

Mr. Wallace offered a resolution on the subject, declaring that they could not be exempted, but the Senate did not seem willing to debate it, and it, with the petition, was sent to the Finance Committee.

The Committees on Constitutional Reform in both Houses are busy in getting bills ready; but the work is difficult and necessarily slow. In a week or two we shall begin to see the result of their labors. SPECIAL.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, January 29, 1874.

The Election law passed both Houses finally *to-day*, and the vote was almost unanimous in both Houses. The vote in the Senate on concurring in the House amendments was 27 to 2—Bechtel and Chalfant voting no. Messrs. Rutan, White, McClure and Wallace all expressed their convictions that several of the amendments of the House were defective and mischievous; but as any amendment of or resistance to them would delay the bill, perhaps, for a week, and there was an imminent need for its prompt passage, they would not interfere now to prevent concurrence, but would look to future legislation to cure the defects pointed out by them.

I send you a correct copy of the bill. It will be signed by the Speakers of both Houses at Friday's session, and go to the Governor at once. It will, therefore, most probably be a law by the time you lay it before your readers.

Among the amendments made by the House an increase in the number of penalties, as well as in their severity, is notable. So savage was the temper of the House, when putting in these increased penalties, that one of the members, presuming that there would be no further need of the men employed as election officers, after they had gone through the ordeal of an election, proposed that as soon as the returns were made out and signed, the election officers should be taken out and hung. Fortunately for the election officers the House has not sanguinary enough to go this far; but the sarcasm conveyed by the amendment is a fit comment on the doubts and suspicions conveyed by many of the adopted penalties. If election officers, as a general rule, are to be considered and treated as scoundrels, they would seem to be, in the very nature of the case, worthy of immediate death. It would have been a higher compliment to the average character of the day to take it for granted that there are *some* honest men left, and that, once in a while, some stray members of that class might chance to get into an election room.

Many of the friends of the new Constitution were infected with the idea that, *prima facie*, all the present Legislature, and especially those members of the community, and especially members of the Legislature and election officers; and it is not surprising that the same suspicious contagion should run through the new Election law. For one, I cherish a higher estimate of my fellow citizens, and I am free to say that I have known election officers by whom my faith in honest as Mr. Buckalew or Mr. McClure, and who have conducted elections honestly, not through fear of penalties, but because they believed it to be their duty to do so, as good citizens. And after all, our main reliance for honest elections hereafter is, and must be, upon the innate integrity of the men who conduct them, and not upon the penalties held over their heads. The honest men will not need such restraints, and the dishonest will not heed them, when it serves their purpose to take the risk of defying them.

The House passed the Orphans' Court bill, pretty much in the shape in which it incurred the judicial hostility of the *Legal Journal* and its tender ones. *Reporter* is horrible to think what fearful consequences the members of that body have incurred by disregarding the legal lore brought to bear upon them in this case; but as they do not seem willing to have the danger averted, it only remains to wait for the dread result. The learned Thebans might possibly succeed better in the Senate than they have in the House, and rushed copies of the *Legal Journal* are now in order for that end of the Capitol.

Both Houses have now appointed committees to report on what changes are necessary in the Capitol building, to accommodate the enlarged Legislature that meets next year. There is a very general repugnance to the idea of undertaking a new building, or an enlargement of the present one, if that can be avoided. The Senate chamber can easily be adapted to the comfortable seating of fifty Senators; but the House chamber is too small by two hundred desks, unless the gallery or lobby is torn out and abandoned. Benches or chairs, without desks, can be arranged, as in the Massachusetts Legislature; but the desks are so a necessary convenience to do without. Mr. Cross is chairman of the House committee, and Mr. Rutan of that in the Senate.

Beyond passing the Orphans' Court bill, the House did nothing except reading bills in place. Of these there was no lack, as you will see by this list:

By Mr. Myer, a bill to regulate taxation of corporations.

By Mr. Little, a bill to change the venue in civil and criminal cases.

By Mr. Thompson (Fayette), one to regulate the extension of borough and township lines.

Mr. Cross, one to provide for an appropriation to the Pennsylvania Lunatic Hospital, Harrisburg.

Mr. Mitchell, one to encourage the further development of the mineral resources of this Commonwealth.

Mr. Hays, a supplement to the act to provide for the incorporation of gas and water companies, approved March 11, 1857.

Mr. Jones, one to further define the powers and duties of justices of the peace of this Commonwealth.

Mr. Allen, one to provide for submitting questions of fact to courts in the trial of causes.

Also, one to provide for the uniform responsibility of certain public officers in the counties of this Commonwealth.

Mr. Christy, one relating to the transfer of the personal estate of married women.

Also, one fixing the number of jurors in cases of partition of real estate levied on by the sheriff in cases of lunacy and habitual drunkards.

Mr. Webb, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported as committed, Senate bill No. 2, to provide for the payment of the expenses of publishing the new Constitution.

In the Senate, bills were read in place as follows:

By Mr. Warfel, an act to regulate the terms of city, borough, ward and township officers within the Commonwealth. The bill provides that all officers elected on the third Tuesday of February shall hold their offices until the first Monday in April next succeeding the expiration of the term to which they would otherwise be entitled under existing laws, and subsequently the term of all such officers elected in February shall commence and terminate on the first Monday in April.

By Mr. Wakley, an act to regulate toll on turnpike roads in certain cases. The bill provides that in all cases wherein owners of lands are obliged to open gates in or upon the roads, from one portion of their land or buildings to another portion of the same land owned and other buildings, no toll shall be demanded or charged such owners, their agents, servants or agents, as also on wagons, cattle, swine, etc.

The following bills were passed:

Senate bill No. 13, appropriating $1,000 for the purpose of defraying expenses incident to the investigation of the management of the Soldiers' Orphan School at Cassville.

Senate bill No. 20, relating to the transportation of exhibits to fairs.

Senate bill No. 19, to validate acts done by corporations created by the courts before the recording of their charters.

Senate bill No. 1, to establish an insurance department, having been amended, on motion of Mr. Rutan, to provide for the printing of 3,000 copies of the report of the Insurance Commissioner of the State, instead of 900, was laid over.

Senate bill No. 17, relating to affidavits of defense, was passed.

Five thousand copies of the Election law were ordered to be printed for the use of the Senate. They will be ready for distribution early next week.

The Philadelphians, who have an idea that large things are necessarily magnificent and intrinsically right, have had a committee here to urge huge salaries for the judges. They want the Chief Justice in that city to have $10,000, the Associates $12,000, and the other Judges of the State $10,000 each. It is easy to be liberal with other people's money; and it is a peculiar Philadelphia monomania that judges ought to have princely salaries. The House Committee, who listened to the grandiloquence of the Philadelphians who favor the Sardanapalus style, seem to have been startled, and rejected it, for they agree to report a bill to give the Chief Justice $9,000, the other Supreme Judges $8,000 each, and the rest of the law judges of the State $6,000 each. At this rate, the additional judges that must be created, it will cost $500,000 for judicial salaries alone.

At the risk of being thought niggardly, I will express the opinion that the present members of the two Houses that the most dangerous thing they can do, for themselves, is an increase of judicial salaries. The people, at the present time, is not in the temper for submitting to any increase whatever. What is done, now, must stick for many years to come, and let legislators beware how they increase the public burdens by increasing salaries. The first fruits of high salaries in New York were Barnard and Cardozo, and others of that kidney. As soon as judicial salaries become a prize, bad men reached out for the glittering allurement; and when Pennsylvania happens upon a kindred policy, she will find the same class making active fight for the places that carry fortunes with them.

Under the enlarged judicial system of the State the local Judges will not be overworked, and the present salary of $4,000, outside of Philadelphia and Allegheny, would seem to be ample for the labor performed. At any rate, the people think so; and the Representative who fancies he can afford to disregard public opinion on that subject, will find his mistake, and too late for his own good. The sentiment that forced a repeal of the increase of Congressional salaries is one that cannot be successfully defied, as Ben Butler and Carpenter know, if Negley don't; and an increase of judicial salaries, at this time, would be just as unpopular as that, and just as fatal to all engaged in it. SPECIAL.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, January 30, 1874.

The House spent an hour in a useless wrangle over a motion to alter the rule which requires it to meet on Saturday, so as to secure an adjournment to Monday; but this requiring a vote of two-thirds was lost—yeas 51, nays 38. So the House holds a Saturday session; but to no good, for there will scarcely be a quorum present.

The Judiciary General Committee reported a bill to fix judicial salaries. It gives the Supreme Judges $8,000 each, the Chief Justice $9,000, the judges in Philadelphia and Allegheny, $7,000, Orphans' Court and the judges outside of Philadelphia and Allegheny $5,000 each. It will not pass in that shape, however. Of that I am convinced.

Bills were read in place as follows:

Mr. Bates, one for the abandonment and discontinuance of the State powder magazine at Philadelphia, and authorizing the sale of the property for the erection of another magazine.

Mr. Wilcox, one to provide for the collection of taxes in the several counties of this Commonwealth.

Mr. Myer, one to suppress intemperance, pauperism and crime.

Mr. Newmyer, one requiring the judges of the Supreme Court to file written opinions, and to designate such as they deem necessary for publication.

Mr. Rutter, one supplementary to acts relating to the incorporation of saving fund, loan and building associations.

Mr. Campbell, one to enlarge the jurisdiction of the justices of the peace of the several counties of this Commonwealth.

Mr. Butler, one to revise the license laws of this Commonwealth, regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors.

Mr. Oliver, one to secure the attendance of children at school.

Mr. Allen (Dauphin), one to provide for the construction of an addition to the main capitol building to accommodate the increased number of representatives provided for by the Constitution, and appointing the Governor, State Treasurer and Auditor General to receive proposals for the building of the same and to contract therefor.

In the Senate, Mr. McClure read the following bills in place:

An act supplemental to an act regulating the commission or license fees to be paid by auctioneers. It provides that every person, after May 1, 1874, the proper accounting officers of this Commonwealth shall adjust and collect the commission or license fees of auctioneers in accordance with the old act.

An act requiring County Commissioners to offer rewards for the detection of violations of the election laws, directing to whom such rewards shall be paid, and providing that persons refusing to give information or testify in prosecutions for violations of said election laws.

The Senate passed two bills, finally.

Senate bill No. 6, authorizing married women owning capital stock of any railroad company to sell and transfer the same.

Senate bill No. 15, to establish an insurance department.

This makes ten bills passed in the Senate, while only three have passed the House. Some 23 bills have been reported in the Senate; ten have passed; three have just been reported and are not yet printed; five are fish bills, which are to be consolidated into one or two; three have been indefinitely postponed; five passed first reading to-day, and will come up on Tuesday on second reading; and eight have been reported negatively, which is equivalent to defeat. In all it will be seen the Senate is fully up with its work.

The following appointments were confirmed:

Notaries Public—William L. Douglass, McKeesport, Allegheny; John A. Quigley, Buena Vista, and J. K. Henderson, Kansas City, Butler; Joseph E. Ulman, Hazleton, Luzerne; George Wharton, Patrick Smith, Charles H. Robens and E. A. B. Brown, Philadelphia.

Commissioners of Deeds—Gen. A. T. A. Torbet, Paris, France; Robert B. Valentine, Jr., N. Y.

Recorder of Deeds—Isaac Murdick, Jr., for Lawrence county, vice Crowe, resigned.

The Election law having been compared faithfully by the Senate Committee on Compare Bills (a duty never before performed), the first bill passed under the new Constitution was signed by the Speakers of both Houses in the Senate, the title having been read, in full by him immediately before signing. This was a novelty in legislative practice, here, although no new thing in other States, and probably will be placed opposite the name. It shall be the further duty of each Assessor as aforesaid, within the period of the duties herein imposed, to make out a separate list of all new assessments made by him. On the days he completed the new assessments made as aforesaid, the same shall forthwith be returned to the County Commissioners.

SEC. 2. The County Commissioners shall immediately add the names on the list of new assessments to the tax duplicates of the wards, boroughs, townships or districts in which they have been assessed, and cause duplicate copies of the other list, with the observations and amendments required by this act to be noted as aforesaid, to be made out as soon as practicable, and placed in the hands of the Assessor, who shall, prior to the Thursday next preceding the first Monday, put one copy thereof on the door of or on the house where the election of the respective district is required to be held, and retain the other in his possession for the inspection, free or charge, of any person resident in the said election district who shall desire to see the same; and it shall be the duty of the said Assessor to add, from time to time, on the days appointed for hearing and claiming the right to vote, the name of such claimant, and such proof as he may require, to the list immediately assess him, noting, as in all other cases, his occupation, residence, whether a boarder or housekeeper, if the latter with whom he boards, and whether naturalized or designing to be, marking in all cases opposite his name the letters "N," "Y" or "I N," as the case may be; if the person claiming to be assessed be naturalized, he shall exhibit to the Assessor his certificate thereof, and if he claims that he designs to be naturalized before the next ensuing election, he shall exhibit to the Assessor his declaration of intention, if such previous declaration is required by the laws of the United States. It shall be the duty of said Assessor to be present at the election house of the said election districts during the two secular days next preceding the day fixed by the third section of this act for returning the lists to the County Commissioners, from ten A. M. to three P. M., and from six P. M. to nine P. M. of each of said days, for the purpose of hearing and acting upon applications to be made under the provisions of this section, or relating to names upon said lists, or that are sought to be placed thereon or struck therefrom; and it shall be his duty to correct said lists of aiding thereto the names of persons entitled to vote not already thereon, and by striking therefrom fictitious names or names of persons who may have died or removed from said district; and the said lists shall be open for inspection by any qualified elector of the county or ward in which the election district is situated, as well as by the person claiming to be registered; and the Court of Common Pleas of the proper county, or any law judge thereof, at chambers, on the application of any qualified elector of the ward or county, under oath setting forth a breach of any of the duties imposed on said Assessor by this act, which oath may be made at any time before the day of election, shall call the Assessor and the complainant before it or him, by citation or rule, to show cause, and shall hear the parties and dispose of the subject in a summary manner as to law and justice shall belong, and shall if need be, order the Assessor to correct the registry accordingly; and the said court or judge may enforce such order by attachment as in proceedings for contempt.

SEC. 3. After the assessments have been completed on the sixty-first day before the Tuesday next following the first Monday of November in each year, the Assessor shall, on the following day, make a return to the County Commissioners of the names of all persons assessed by him since the return required to be made by him by the first section of this act, noting opposite each name all observations and explanations required to be noted as aforesaid; and the County Commissioners shall thereupon cause the same to be added to the return required by the first section of this act, and a full and correct copy thereof to be made, containing the names of all persons so returned as resident taxables in said election district, and furnish the same, together with the necessary election blanks, to the officers of the election in such election district, on or before seven o'clock on the morning of the election; and no man shall be permitted to vote at the election on that day whose name is not on said list unless he shall make proof of his right to vote as hereinafter required.

SEC. 4. On the petition of five or more citizens of any election district, setting forth that the appointment of overseers is a reasonable precaution to secure the purity and freedom of election in said district, it shall be the duty of the Court of Common Pleas of the proper county, all the law judges of the said court sitting to act at the time concurring, to appoint two judicious, sober and intelligent citizens of the said district, belonging to different political parties, overseers of election, to supervise all proceedings at election aforesaid, and to make report of the same as they may be required by such court; said overseers shall be persons qualified to serve upon election boards, and shall have the right to be present with the officers of such election during the whole time the same is held, the votes counted and the returns made out and signed by the election officers, to keep a list of voters as they are polled, to challenge any person offering to vote, and interrogate him and his witnesses touching his right to vote, and to inspect and sheet in addition, in all of which the votes received by each candidate shall be given after his or her name, and the whole number of votes polled shall be signed by all of said officers and certified by overseers, if any, in addition to the usual certificate; and any officer refusing to sign or certify, or either of them, shall write upon each of the returns to be by their possession or not signed or certifying them. The vote as soon as counted shall also be publicly and fully declared from the window to the citizens present, and a brief statement showing the votes received by each candidate shall be made out by the overseer, copies of which as soon as the vote is counted and the same shall be immediately posted up on the door of the election house for the information of the people. The return shall be inclosed in envelopes and be sealed in presence of the overseers, one of which shall enclose the unsealed return sheet given to the judge, which shall contain one list of voters, tally-paper and oaths of officers, and another list of voters, which shall be given to the minority inspector. All judges living within twenty-four miles, if their residence be in a town, village or city upon the line of railroads leading to the county seat, shall, before two o'clock P. M. of the day after the election, and all other judges shall before twelve o'clock M. of the second day after the election, deliver said return, together with return to the Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas of the county, which said return sheet shall be filed and the day and hour of filing marked thereon, and shall be preserved by the Prothonotary for public inspection. At twelve o'clock on the said second day following any election, the Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas shall present the said returns to the said court; in counties where there is no resident President Judge, the Associate Judges shall perform the duties imposed upon the Court of Common Pleas, which shall convene for said purpose; the returns presented to the Prothonotary or ward in which the election district is situated, as well as by the person claiming to be registered; and the Court of Common Pleas of the proper county, or any law judge thereof, at chambers, on the application of any qualified elector of the ward or county, under oath setting forth a breach of any of the duties imposed on said Assessor by this act, which oath may be made at any time before the day of election, shall call the Assessor and the complainant before it or him, by citation or rule, to show cause, and shall hear the parties and dispose of the subject in a summary manner as to law and justice shall belong, and shall if need be, order the Assessor to correct the registry accordingly; and the said court or judge may enforce such order by attachments as in proceedings for contempt.

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SEC. 7. Whenever there shall be a vacancy in an election board by reason of the disqualification of the officer or otherwise, the election board present, and from which or where any new district shall be formed, the Judge or Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the proper county shall, ten days before any general or special election, appoint competent persons to fill such vacancy or vacancies, and in the appointment of inspectors in each district they shall appoint, if possible, the same political party, and the judge of elections shall in all cases be of the political party having the majority in the district at the last elections. If the said judge or judges can ascertain the fact; and in cases of the disagreement of the judges as to the selection of inspectors, the political majority of the judges shall select one of such inspectors and the minority judge or judges shall select the other.

SEC. 7. Whenever there shall be a vacancy in an election board by reason of the disqualification of the officer or otherwise, or in case a new district shall be formed, the Judge or Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the proper county shall, ten days before any general or special election, appoint competent persons to fill such vacancy or vacancies, and in the appointment of inspectors in each district they shall appoint, if possible, the same political party, and the judge of elections shall in all cases be of the political party having the majority in the district at the last elections. If the said judge or judges can ascertain the fact; and in cases of the disagreement of the judges as to the selection of inspectors, the political majority of the judges shall select one of such inspectors and the minority judge or judges shall select the other.

SEC. 8. Whenever there shall be a vacancy in an election board, by reason of the death, refusal or neglect of any judge of election to serve or attend on the day of election, such vacancy shall be filled in conformity with existing law.

SEC. 8. At the opening of the polls at all elections, it shall be the duty of the judges of election to examine the registry list, in the presence of the inspectors, whose duty it shall be to have in custody the registry of voters, and to make the entries thereon required by law, and it shall be the duty of the other of said inspectors to receive and number the ballots presented at said election.

SEC. 9. In addition to the oath or affirmation which citizens shall be required by law to take before they are allowed to vote, they shall be required to take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation, which shall be administered by the judges of the election officers, the said oath or affirmation to be taken and subscribed in duplicate, and one of the said duplicates to be delivered to the Assessor at the time the vote is offered, and the other to be retained by the judges of election, and carefully preserved by them, and returned with the election returns to the Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas, and shall be preserved by him for two years, and shall be open to public inspection during that time, and shall be proof of the right of the person voting to vote at the election at which he or she may offer to vote, and of the fact of his or her having voted at such election, and of the matters therein contained, and shall be conclusive upon the subject, unless some competent evidence shall be offered to contradict the same, and shall be evidence in favor of the person voting in any proceeding touching his or her vote at such election, and shall be sufficient to support an indictment against any person who shall take the said oath or affirmation falsely, which oath or affirmation shall be in the following form, to wit:

"You do swear (or affirm) that you will support the Constitution of the United States and this Commonwealth, and will maintain true allegiance to the same; that you are a citizen of the United States (and if you have been naturalized, that you are fully entitled to vote by reason of your naturalization, if you claim a right to vote by reason thereof); that you are now a resident of this State (or if you have been a resident of this State for the last six months immediately preceding this election, you shall be entitled to vote, although you shall not have paid taxes, the said affirmation to be varied to suit the case); that you have resided in this election district (or if you have been a resident of the district for the last two months immediately preceding this election, you shall be entitled to vote, although you shall not have paid taxes, the said affirmation to be varied to suit the case); that you have not been assessed within six months, or paid a State or county tax within two years, which was assess

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1874.

THE Utica (N. Y.) *Herald* affirms that the Grangers have fixed upon Hon. E. B. WASHBURNE, Minister to France, as their candidate for President in 1876, and that Mr. WASHBURNE has, to some extent, given encouragement to the scheme. This may or may not be so, but if they do select him it will have to be in connection with the Republican nomination for he is not the man to abandon either his party or his principles.

ALWAYS, in the long run, illiberality and intolerance defeat their own ends. The result of the recent foolish action of the Boston School Committee, in refusing to admit the women members to their seats, has been the introduction of the following bill in the Legislature, which has been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary: "Women are eligible as members of school committees in all the cities and towns of this Commonwealth." But little doubt is entertained of the passage of the measure.

THE report of the Bureau of Statistics for the month ended September, 1873, and for the nine months ended the same date, shows the total value of foreign commodities remaining in the warehouses of the United States September 30, 1873, to have been $68,606,404, against $82,788,675, September 30, 1872. Allowing for the difference in warehouse, the imports were in excess of the domestic and foreign exports combined for the nine months ended September 30, 1873, to the amount of $51,547,273, as compared with $109,853,055 for the corresponding period of 1872—a very gratifying improvement in our national trade account, and one which carries with it its own lessons of encouragement and admonition.

THE New York papers call attention to the heavy gains which are taking place in our foreign trade over the fiscal year ending June 30, 1873. Since the first of July our exports have increased, and our imports have decreased in the following significant proportions: Increase of exports for the last seven months over a like period last year, $36,427,393. Decrease of imports for same period, $43,118,229. Total gain in seven months, $79,545,597. These figures are worth studying by everybody, but especially by the advocates of a "tariff for revenue purposes alone"—so many pithy sugestivenesses inhere in them.

THE managers of the New York trunk lines and the railroads from Chicago connecting with the Union Pacific, have given notice that they will make no more through bills of lading, either from Chicago or New York to San Francisco, unless the Union Pacific managers accept a *pro rata* tariff based on that charged by the connecting roads. The difficulty arose from the fact that the Union and Central Pacific Railroads refuse to make *pro rata* rates, but charge more per mile on their roads than they are willing to allow the roads east of them. Judging from the firm and determined stand taken by the Eastern and Chicago roads, the present dead-lock will undoubtedly continue until the two Pacific roads come to terms.

FEW persons, even among the best informed, have any adequate idea of the inside workings of the Internal Revenue Bureau of the United States. Our special Washington dispatches of yesterday contained a statement showing that the entire number of employees in this department of the public service is now 3,533, as against 8,599 seven years ago. We are enabled, from data in our possession, to furnish some details concerning the manner in which this notable reduction has been accomplished. On the first of December, 1866, there were 106 inspectors of coal oil, 293 general inspectors of distilleries, 1,309 inspectors of distilled spirits, and 178 revenue inspectors; there are now none. At that date the number of tobacco inspectors was 748; it is now 19. There were then 341 assistant assessors; there are now none. The collectors then numbered 241, and the deputy collectors 1,850. There are now 225 of the former and 882 of the latter class. There was also, at the date in question, a Solicitor at a large salary; but this office, together with special agencies, has since been abolished. There are now 10 supervisors, 150 surveyors of distilleries, 987 gaugers, 942 storekeepers, 25 agents, 29 laborers, 9 messengers, 48 copyists, 169 clerks, 7 heads of division, one Commissioner and one deputy. The assessments formerly made by assessors are now made at Washington, under the act of December 24, 1872, and this decreases the employees largely, but gives more work to the Washington office. During the fiscal year 1872-3 there were received and counted twice 212,964,036 tobacco and cigar stamps, valued at $34,459,417 83; 5,964,160 spirit stamps, valued at $8,896,322; 30,955,460 beer stamps, valued at $1,833,905; making a total of 249,883,656 stamps, of value of $103,182,644 83, as against 15,469,504 stamps, valued at $345,230 05 in 1866. No gauger's accounts were ever adjusted and paid in the Washington office prior to August, 1872. Now they are all adjusted there, and drafts sent for payment each month. In addition to this, the number of returns from rectifiers, brewers, distillers, and banks and bankers, are enormous; to which must be added reports of surveys of distilleries, of gangers, of examinations of bonds, titles, and other matters necessary to the government's first lien upon distillery property; daily reports of storekeepers on duty at grain distilleries, entries for deposit and withdrawal of distilled spirits in bonded warehouses, examination of bonds given for removal of spirits, &c. The Internal Revenue Department is one of the busiest, as it is also one of the most economically managed departments of the government.

PROF. GOLDWIN SMITH'S STRANGE STATEMENT.

Professor GOLDWIN SMITH, in the course of a lecture lately delivered before an association of workingmen in London, spoke of the "hatred" with which Americans regard England as a fact about which there could be no doubt or dispute. Having not the lecture at hand just now, we are not in a position to quote the passage in which the statement occurs. The "fact," however, was alleged in a way well adapted to make an impression, as the general tone of the lecture was friendly to the United States, and likely to satisfy those who heard it that the speaker was in a position qualified to bear witness concerning the real sentiments of the American people. Besides the kindly tone of the lecture and the lengthened residence of the lecturer in this country, his former activity in England as a decided Liberal and defender of American institutions against the attacks of Tory assailants, would naturally be called to mind as evidence of his competence as a reporter in the premises. It is, therefore, not surprising to learn that Professor SMITH's statement has attracted a good deal of attention in England. True, intelligent people who happen to be familiar with the eccentricities of the Professor's career, and with the crotchets and peculiarities of his character, may attach little importance to his statement. But great multitudes, unable or indisposed to make allowance for influences which may have distorted his view in spite of good and honest intentions, doubtless accept the statement as entirely correct. Many of them needed no fresh testimony on the subject, as they have never allowed themselves to doubt about the fact, as it seems to them, that American republicans must be hostile to the people and institutions of an old, conservative country like England. To those who entertain such a prepossession Mr. SMITH's statement causes neither surprise nor regret.

But there is another numerous class of English people, we may be sure, to whom the apparently well founded assertion of the Professor is disappointing as well as in other respects painful. We allude to the many who, in the course of our civil war, and as the result of the international discussions and recriminations to which it gave rise, were induced to believe that the feeling of the American people towards England had been completely misunderstood. It is undoubtedly true that by a powerful British party, during half a century at least, great pains had been taken to misrepresent American feeling. To the members of the party referred to, it seemed wholly undesirable that Americans and their institutions should be regarded in England with respect and kindness. To them the mere example of popular self-government appeared dangerous to British Conservatism, and if the evil example could not be put away, then the next best thing was that it should be so portrayed as to excite disgust and ridicule rather than awaken the desire of imitation. Hatred and distrust call forth hatred and distrust, and if the English could be made to believe that Americans cherished old resentments against them and were constantly on the watch for opportunities to express their hatred, an important end was gained. Americans, a nation of readers, speedily learned and laid up in memory whatever was published in England with the view of disparaging them, and the conviction or the suspicion once produced that a purpose of the kind existed, naturally led to general misinterpretation of whatever criticism they became the subject, however innocently or honestly meant. The irritation thus excited gave tone to the Fourth of July celebrations, to which Professor SMITH alludes, and found expression in other channels, with the result of furnishing abundant material for those persons in Britain who desired to believe and to spread the belief that all or nearly all Americans were animated by a lively hatred of England. While it need not, indeed cannot, be truly denied that there has always been a party in this country hostile to England on political grounds, it would certainly have been reduced to insignificance scores of years ago but for the anti-republican propagandism of the English feeling. Professor TYNDALL's conclusion would probably be accepted by most of them all, as expressing the result of their experiences, "Either they do not hate us as alleged (by Professor SMITH); or if they do, the manner in which they suppressed their feelings, out of consideration for a guest, proves them to be the most courteous of nations."

THE EVANS CASE.

The verdict in the EVANS case, at Harrisburg, would be a matter of surprise, if the facts attending the trial were not known. The claim of the State was for $305,000, and she was entitled to every dollar of it; yet the verdict is barely for $185,000. The difference, $120,000, is the allowance made to EVANS, by the jury under the charge of the court, for collecting the claims of the State, and the marvel is that any court, reputable as being learned in the law, should give such an instruction to the jury.

Mr. EVANS was appointed as the agent of the State to collect certain claims from the general government, under an act which prescribed for him a compensation "not exceeding ten per cent." He collected large sums of money, which he failed to pay over to the State; and it is a well-known principle of law that an agent who fails to account promptly for collections made by him, forfeits thereby all claims to compensation.

It is true that Judge PEARSON, who tried this case, held that this rule did not apply to moneys to which the agent had the color of a claim; but it is also true that, admitting this to be the correct view, EVANS was still guilty of appropriating to his own use for a year or more some $29,000 to which he had not the color of a claim. He paid this into the State Treasury, or it was paid in for him, after his default was discovered; but he did not pay it in when it was due, held it in his hands for an unusually long period, and by the bad faith shown by him to his principal, he forfeited any legal claim to his compensation.

The Attorney General submitted this point to the court, and argued it conclusively; but the court ignored it, and instructed the jury not merely to allow this defaulter ten per cent. upon the collections actually made by him, but to give him such other compensation as they thought he deserved. The finding of the jury, under such a charge, is not surprising; but the charge, itself, is a subject of special wonder.

So far as the State is concerned, it matters but little whether the verdict against EVANS is large or small. He is insolvent, and the verdict can yield nothing to the State Treasury; but so far as the public service is concerned, it *is* of great importance that the principle should be established that a defaulter is not entitled to reward for his services. Defalcations are worthy of punishment, not of reward; and it is essential to the public welfare that the State should be stern and just in dealing with those who are unfaithful to the trusts reposed in them.

Yet this is the very thing Judge PEARSON's decision does *not* do. As far as a judicial act can go in that direction, it is notice to all persons in a like situation that if they steal the public funds under color of a claim to them, they shall still be entitled to their compensation; and, if as EVANS did, they chance to hold on to more than is covered by even their extravagant claims, and afterwards pay it over, they shall not thereby forfeit their percentage and allowance. The State cannot afford to establish such a loose principle as this; and although the late hurtling in this case may not be appealed from, it cannot be regarded either as good law or good morals.

This whole EVANS business is a dirty blot. It originated under a Governor who is dead, and has ended in sending the gray-haired defaulter to prison. The State has her verdict, but she will get no money. It started viciously, has been prolonged wickedly, and ends not only in a worthless verdict, but in the worthless law which accompanied it. The State officers who prosecuted the claim to conviction have been vindicated; but, to the public eye, there has been but the uncovering of a nasty sore, and to the public nostrils but the stench of an unsavory ulcer. The ending, so far as the law has been interpreted or misinterpreted, has been in keeping with the progress of the case from its beginning to its conclusion.

ENGLISH ELECTIONS.

Few, we suppose, have been surprised much, if at all, at the results thus far reported of the English elections. Local Conservative successes, some time ago, seemed to foreshadow a conservative outcome of general elections whenever, in consequence of a dissolution of Parliament, they should come to pass; and, indeed, popular dissatisfaction with Liberal rule had been displayed in so many forms as to leave little doubt about the answer of an appeal to the country. Very harsh criticism has been passed upon Mr. GLADSTONE for the sudden, unexpected way in which he made the appeal, calling for a new Parliament when nobody was thinking of it, or rather when everybody was thinking that some months at least, must elapse before the people would be required formally to judge their representatives. Some conjecture that the great leader hoped, in the election of a new Parliament just at the present time, to derive advantage from the marriage of the Duke of Edinburgh with the daughter of the Czar. The matrimonial alliance has proved to be popular in England, as it is intended to charm away the Muscovite bugaboo, and as the credit of the affair belongs in some measure to the GLADSTONE administration, it is perhaps not absurd to suspect that to shrewd politicians it may have seemed judicious to order an election before the people could forget their joy and their obligations of gratitude to its authors. But the people, it appears, had too many and serious grievances against the party to be set aside or forgotten through so slight a gratification.

According to one authority, the unpopularity of the GLADSTONE ministry is the result of the personal qualities or character of certain of its members. Thus, it is said that the people discover too much of the High Church theologian in the Premier, too much of the college tutor in Mr. LOWE, too much of the coxcomb in Lord GRANVILLE, and so on. The Ashantee war has, no doubt, caused great dissatisfaction and disgust. Though in favor of carrying on the war to a satisfactory conclusion, an important section of the people are convinced that it should never have been begun, and that to begin it was an unpardonable blunder on the part of the ministry. There is, moreover, a widely spread impression that the general foreign policy of the government has been weak and undecided, and people are not less ready to pass sentence of condemnation upon the policy and its authors, because they may be unable or unwilling to point out the particular errors and shortcomings for which they think punishment deserved. Perhaps close scrutiny would discover that not a few patriotic Britons who congratulate themselves and their country on the peaceful settlement of the Alabama question at Geneva, yet take comfort in withdrawing their confidence and support from the statesmen through whose wise patience and sagacity the great result was achieved.

Though little, if anything, has lately been said on the subject in newspaper criticism, its temperance legislation has no doubt contributed to the unpopularity of the Liberal government. Among the measures passed at the last session of Parliament was one limiting the hours during which beer and liquors might be sold, and ultimately limiting the number of houses for the sale of such drinks. The measure was urged upon the government by the temperance people, and caused intense disgust at the time, not only among the consumers but among the dealers in and makers of the articles referred to. The extent of the interest thus affected may be judged from the fact that the English working classes alone expend in drink a sum annually equal, or nearly equal, to the whole imperial revenue, or somewhere about £50,000,000, while the brewers, as everybody knows, are among the richest and most important persons in the island.

Not unnaturally the clergy and the zealous lay supporters of the Established Church long ago became alarmed at Liberal leadership and politics. The statesmen who effected disestablishment in Ireland appeared to them quite capable of attempting a similar revolution in England, if popular clamor or the exigencies of progress should demand the reform, and the mere possibility or thought of such desecration sufficed to excite intense horror and fever. Ever since the great Irish measure was passed Mr. GLADSTONE and his colleagues have been denounced by many churchmen as dangerous men, and the influence of the Established Church is still powerful in elections.

There is, however, no good reason to believe that a Conservative Parliament will be able to satisfy the nation for any considerable time. The work of reform has advanced too far to be arrested, and must be carried forward, if not under Tory, then under Liberal leadership. Tories have before now retained power by taking up and doing the work which their antagonists had planned. But it is hardly to be expected that any such exchange of parts at present is possible, as some of the reforms required by the English people and intended by Mr. GLADSTONE and his colleagues could not be adopted by a Conservative ministry without ruinous self-stultification, even if scruples of conscience or principle were out of the way. It seems, therefore probable that if the Conservatives now go into office, it will be for only a little while, soon to yield their places to Liberal successors.

LOCAL OPTION.

The Attorney General decides that the Legislature can repeal the Local Option law, if it chooses. It is nothing more or less than any other law, and can be repealed as readily as it was enacted. That, under the circumstances, the contrary opinion should be entertained, is not astonishing; but the Attorney General has doubtless taken the right view.

The idea of those who thought it was not legal to repeal that law, was based on the fact that a popular vote was taken on the subject of Local Option. It was held that the law was in fact, made by the people in their primary capacity, and therefore could not be repealed by any body which derives its power from them.

There is force in this view of the case; but the error consists in carrying it too far. Under the Constitution all legislative power is vested in the two Houses of the Legislature. The people have no direct legislative power, and if the Local Option law was not complete until the vote of the people was had on it, then it was unconstitutional. The Supreme Court held it to be constitutional; but they held the vote of the people provided for in it, as a mere incident of the bill, and not as essential to its validity.

The law, therefore, being complete without a popular vote, although licenses under it could not be granted without it, the same power that enacted it can repeal it. This point, we think, is incontrovertible.

And yet, although there is no legal bar to its repeal, there is a sanctity about this law which does not apply to any other. The popular vote was not essential to its validity, and is not to its repeal; but the people were nevertheless appealed to on the subject, and their vote upon it surrounds this law with the halo of the public majesty. The Legislature may disregard it, if it will; but *should* it do so? Would it be justifiable in doing so? We think not. The people, in the various cities and counties of the State, have expressed their will on the subject of license under that law, and under the conviction that their decision was to be binding for three years. That was an expression of the public will which the representatives of the people should feel bound to regard. It has not the specific force of a statute; but it has a force which entitles it to profound respect.

We object, therefore, to any change in the law, because the popular vote was invoked by it, and because that vote should be considered as conclusive for the term designed to be covered by it. Both parties to that vote ought to be content with it; and if they take our advice, they both will be.

PERSONAL.

An episode of the convention of the great Jewish society of B'nai B'rith at Chicago, last week, was the presentation of a gold medal to Mr. Frankland, of Memphis. Mr. Frankland has won the title of "The Hero of Memphis" by his courageous devotion to the victims of yellow fever in that city. So conspicuous were his services and humanity that the Episcopal Bishop of Vicksburg said that in a city full of churches, with ten thousand Christians, it had been left to a Jew to prove the true type of a good Samaritan.

F. Schonman, of Milwaukee, worked hard for four years, did well, and then sent over the sea for his Katrina. When she arrived he died from excessive joy.

Miss Neilson has greatly gained in health by her recent sojourn in Florida, and she now proposes to resume her professional labors early in the spring.

Brignoli, who was apparently falling into disrepute in Italy a year ago, being hissed industriously by his countrymen, has been at the "Italiens" at Paris for several months, and is better than ever. Not only has his voice improved by an increase of volume and with no diminution of its sweetest qualities, but it is even said that he has given, of late, marked attention to his personal appearance on the stage, and is developing an astonishing amount, for Brignoli, of dramatic genius.

Now this is a very calculating kind of blood-thirstiness. The murderer Rafferty is to be hung at Chicago on February 27, for killing policeman O'Meara a year or two ago. And the State Attorney says that Rafferty's stringing up "will be equal to an addition of two hundred men to the police force, for a period of five years, making its value in cash about $1,000,000. Rafferty alive wasn't worth a cent, but Rafferty dead will be worth a million dollars!

A Washington letter says: One of the *debutantes* this winter is the daughter of Senator and Mrs. Roscoe Conkling, a girl whose quaintly pretty face has so much shy sweetness and maidenly purity and modesty expressed in it, that you look at her in wonder, involuntarily fearing she must have just stepped out of an old portrait frame. It is just the face you see in old portrait galleries.

Mrs. Jane T. Hendricks, mother of Gov. Hendricks, of Indiana, died in Indianapolis last week, at the age of eighty years. She was born in 1793, near Chambersburg, in this State, her maiden name being Jane Thompson, and she was married to Major John Hendricks in 1814.

The inexorable Constitution having deprived Connecticut of her Chief Justice Seymour, on account of age and not at all for his infirmity, Governor Ingersol, at a parting dinner to the retired Judge, responded by saying: "It was Sir Walter Raleigh, I think, who is said to have cheated the axe that cut off his head. Is it in this spirit we toast on this occasion the State of Connecticut, by whose inexorable Constitution we lose our Chief Justice, while in the full possession of all his eminent abilities? We should perhaps remember her for what she has given, aather than for what she takes away."

A DECISION has just been made in the Superior Court of New York of considerable interest to the press. It was on a suit for libel in publishing in the New York *Times* something which occurred in a police court. The plaintiff wished to show that the facts set forth in the police court were false. The court below and the court above held that the publication of what actually occurred in the court was privileged, whether true or false in itself, unless shown to be malicious. The complainant was accordingly dismissed.

LOCAL OPTION.

Opinion of Attorney General Dimmick—The Law May be Repealed by the Legislature.

Attorney General Dimmick has furnished the following opinion on the Local Option question to the House of Representatives:

To the Honorable the House of Representatives:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the following resolution adopted:

Resolved, That the Attorney General be requested to inform this House whether, in his opinion, an act to repeal the Local Option law can be passed without violation of the Constitution.

The act therein referred to is entitled "an act to permit the voters of this Commonwealth to vote every three years on the question of granting licenses to sell intoxicating liquors," and was approved March 27, 1872, and to which a supplement was enacted. Approved March 6th, 1873.

This act has not been passed upon by the Supreme Court; but the court on the 17th day of March, 1873, passed upon an act containing substantially the same provisions, entitled "an act to allow the voters of the Twenty-second ward of the city of Philadelphia to vote on the question of granting licenses to sell intoxicating liquors." Approved May 3d, 1871.

In delivering the opinion of the court, Mr. Justice Agnew said:—"Whatever the Legislature (having before referred to the date of the act) determined to be a law, for so much was then a fixed and absolute resolve, and thus it is perfectly manifest this law was not made, pronounced or ratified by the people. When the law came from the hands of legislation it came perfect law;" and he asks then, "What did the votes decide? "Clearly not that the act should become a law, or not be, for the law already existed. Indeed, it was not delegated to the people to decide anything. They simply declared their views of wishes, and when they did so it was the fiat of the law, not their votes, which commanded licenses to be issued or not to be issued.

The objection to the law was, that it was a delegation of legislative power to the people, empowering the people, or attempting so to do, to legislate and enact a law, and therefore unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court held it was not, but that it was a perfect law when it left the halls of legislation.

I am unable to decide why the power that enacted it may not repeal it without violation of the Constitution. The power of the Legislature is supreme over the matter; it may at any time withdraw the privileges it extended to the people.

The fact that the people were permitted to express their views and wishes, and that, in compliance therewith, licenses were issued, not issued, gives it no greater permanency as a law. It still remains as a law enacted by the supreme power of the State, and the power that enacted it can at any time destroy or repeal it. In the language of Chief Justice Gibson, "The Constitution allows to the Legislature every power which it does not expressly prohibit." There is nothing in the Constitution prohibitory of the enactment referred to in the resolution, and the Legislature has the undoubted right to repeal the law referred to, this be its pleasure. With high respect your obedient servant,

SAMUEL E. DIMMICK,
Attorney General.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The Patent Office is overrun with applications. "Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright, but they have sought out many inventions."

Bath, Maine, is cutting ice of the thickness of eighteen inches—showing that she is a cold Bath.

A lady is now distinguished by her plain costumes on the street. It has come to this at last.

The ludicrous has its place in the universe; it is one of the divine ideas, illustrated in the practical jokes of kittens and monkeys long before Aristophanes or Shakespeare, and in the antics of the opposition press in our own country and days.

In less than a century the whole arable land of the United States will be taken up by actual settlers—unless it is done by patriotic railroad directors in a much shorter time.

The Brooklyn *Eagle* is attracting considerable attention by criticising the acting of Edwin Booth.

Twenty-nine State Legislatures, besides our own, are now filing at the old laws and grinding out new ones.

The enterprising widows of Chang and Eng have still another opportunity for money getting. If they will go about the country for exhibition as the women who sold the bodies of their husbands to the doctors, there is a fortune in store for them.

People will probably hereafter have more tender regard for sawdust. A good brandy is now manufactured from it.

With very few exceptions, none of the Southern journals have done anything more than pay expenses since the first year of the civil war. Most of them have had, and still have, a hard struggle with fortune.

Activity. In seventeen years Spurgeon has received 13,000 persons into his church, erected thirty-six chapels in London, and supplied the same with ministers trained in a college of his own founding.

New York city has now one saloon to every 160 of its population. In compensation for this alarming fact there is nothing but the $350,000 collected for licenses.

A recent strike in England was quelled by an offer on the part of the masters to pay higher wages to any men who would show themselves individually deserving of it.

The following is a copy of a singular petition now being circulated for signatures: We, the undersigned, citizens of Massachusetts and consumers of tobacco, protest against any advance in the rate of tax on what we consider one of the necessaries of life and a great help in the temperance reform now going on in this State.

A series of recent experiments with steel, exhibit the interesting fact that a remarkable increase of strength is obtained by tempering steel in oil and water.

There has lately arrived from Paris and is now in New York an immense balloon, which will be taken in a few days to San Francisco, where it is to be used in making scientific ascensions.

Codliver oil is being used with some success for fattening poultry. The grain given to the chickens is soaked in the oil, and they like it.

A substitute for quinine has been discovered in the echises plant, which grows abundantly in the Phillippine Islands. Now give us a substitute for chills and fever.

Pope's "Essay on Man" is, it is said, getting to be a tabooed work among the strong-minded.

The maximum of cheapness in literature has been reached by a London edition of the "Waverly Novels," published at six cents each.

Revels, formerly United States Senator from Mississippi, seems to have fallen into bad odor among his people. He has been defeated for State Printer.

The New York cap makers, cigar makers and parasol makers are on strike for higher wages; and as a strike is the most expensive luxury imaginable, it is to be supposed they have got everything else in the world they want.

A party of New England naturalists have started to explore the wilderness around Lake Okechobe, Florida, 106 miles in extent, which no naturalist has ever yet explored.

Pretty even. The difference in the length of passage made by the Cunard steamship Parthia, on her last two trips from Queenstown to Boston, was just eight minutes.

Chicago takes good care of her poor. During January $63,106 were expended and 5,858 families relieved.

The mildness of the season is deceiving the migrating birds into believing that the winter is over.

Barnum is putting up another tremendous hippidrome in New York, which the people in the vicinity declare will be a dangerous fire-trap. It covers a whole square, and is almost entirely of wood.

POLITICAL.

State.

In its list of candidates for Lieutenant Governor, the Hollidaysburg *Register* gives the names of Hon. H. H. McCormick, of this city, and Hon. M. S. Quay, of Beaver.

The Philadelphia *Press* announces that McClure has captured Holmesburg and Frankford. The Stokley men will capture McClure on the 17th.

All the respectable and reputable journals of Philadelphia oppose McClure for Mayor. The *North American*, the *Bulletin*, the *Inquirer* and the *Telegraph* are advocating the election of the present municipal officers, who have proved faithful public servants. Even the *Age* turns its back upon the great "Reformer."

The Democrats of Altoona have nominated David A Gilland for Mayor, and John H. Carr for Treasurer.

THE *American Agriculturist* recently pronounced a certain patent medicine "nonsensical quackery," and was called upon by the proprietor of the medicine to answer for it before a court of justice in New York. The defendants justified themselves on the ground that their statements were true. Prior to the trial the court summoned the plaintiff and desired to know the composition of his remedy. The plaintiff said it was "a secret compound of various ingredients which possess great medical qualities," but refused to give the component parts. The court thereupon dismissed the suit, with costs. The plaintiff appealed to a higher tribunal, but the decision of the court below was confirmed.

A movement has been made in San Francisco toward the establishment of a School of the Mechanic Arts. Very sensible. Pittsburgh please copy.

THE TARIFF.

Senator Scott and the Ten Per Cent Reduction of Duties.

[From the Iron and Steel Bulletin.]

The statement has been made in several journals that the act of June 6, 1872, reducing duties on foreign imports ten per cent. was not seriously opposed in either House of Congress. This is a mistake. We can name at least one leading Senator who opposed its passage:—Senator Scott of Pennsylvania. On the 27th of May Mr. Scott protested earnestly against the reduction, and warned the Senate of the consequences that would follow the adoption of the proposition. Because the Senate insisted upon the reduction being made, Mr. Scott and Mr. Chandler of Michigan voted against the final passage of the tax and tariff bill. Mr. Scott's objections were to the effect that the proposed reduction was "simply a question of labor; there is where the reduction is to come." He said further:

"I wish the Senate to be warned that but one of two results can follow from this reduction, either utter prostration and ruin or the reduction of the price of labor; and if the Senate and the party with which I have the honor to act are ready for either of these results, I want them to look forward to the fact that they are preparing the way to bring them about. I do not wish to be responsible for the results that are to follow this reduction. Looking to Pennsylvania, speaking for it, I shall not hold myself responsible for the results which will follow from this reduction, and those who vote for this reduction must be ready to take the consequences which do follow; for I tell you, Mr. President, upon this question of labor (for it is that only) we are more interested in that State, both physically, if I may so speak, or pecuniarily and politically, than Senators perhaps dream of."

STATE NEWS.

Berks county courts cost $11,130 80 last year.

A mule amputated three fingers of a man's hand at Lessport, Berks county, the other day. The mule did it with his little heel.

The wheat in Venango and Crawford counties is said to have been injured by the frequent freezings and thawings of this peculiar winter.

The two new iron bridges across French creek at Franklin, are nearly completed.

A Venango county preacher gave to Moses the honor of building the ark.

Upon the farm of Isaac S. Landis, in Landis's Valley, Lancaster county, there are strawberries in the green already. Just before the late cold snap the plants were in bloom, and now they are full of bright green berries.

Rev. John Kelly, pastor of St. Malachi's Roman Catholic Church, Philadelphia, was found dead in his bed on Monday morning. He had expressed the fear on Sunday that he would die suddenly.

Michael Mahon was killed in a mine at Scranton on Monday.

A new foundry will commence operations in Reading this week.

Berks county paid bounty on forty-one fox scalps and one wildcat scalp, last month.

The mules on the farm of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company, near Pottstown, have been attacked with putrid sore throat.

Footpads stopped a young man in Williamsport, on Sunday night, and demanded his money. He drew a revolver and shot one of them, when the other ran away. No arrests.

Mr. Jesse M. Dick, a member of the banking house of J. R. Dick & Co., Meadville, died on the 2d inst.

The Rev. G. M. Lazarus, pastor of the Lutheran Church at Quakertown, Bucks county, was thrown from a buggy on the 31st ult., and almost instantly killed.

Ice five inches in thickness is being stored at Allentown.

Titusville people have made much of one M. W. Clay, a genius who has been playing detective in that vicinity for several months past, but who is now charged with being a fraud and blackmailer. Clay arrested a young man named Young on a charge of theft, and kept him in jail at Clarion for four months. When the case came to trial, Young's innocence was clearly demonstrated, and he let it be known that Clay had made repeated offers to "settle" the matter for a consideration.

The Kittanning *Republican* says: Andrew Stitt, Sr., who departed this life on the 17th ult. in Allegheny township, this county, at the eighty-four years, was a hand on one of the keel boats that carried the outfit for Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's fleet on Lake Erie, in 1812.

From numerous items in *Frank Cleon's Paper*, we are led to infer that a denizen of that village tackled the wrong man, the other night, and came out of the melee which ensued with a sense of utterly used-upness, so to speak.

The total number of arrests made during the past month in Philadelphia were 2,885. The number of lodgers provided for in the different station houses during the same period were 5,147.

The Chambersburg *Public Opinion* says another outrage is reported in this borough within this last week—the victim this time being a little girl, and the offender again a colored fiend.

The *Miners' Journal* says the small-pox has prevailed in Pottsville more this winter than for a long while, and it is still prevailing in certain suburbs with considerable violence.

Mrs. Guyld, of Plum township, Venango county, aged about eighty years, died on New Year's morning, after an illness of two weeks. Herself and husband, although living together up to the time of her death, had not spoken to each other for fifteen years, the result of an original quarrel. During her sickness Mr. G. never spoke to her, although he showed signs of relenting after her death. This peculiar couple were married in Ireland, and all of whom are respected and honored citizens.

Thieves broke into a magazine on Pine Run, near Parker City, recently, and stole one hundred pounds of nitro-glycerine.

There is in the bands of the officers of the Germantown National bank a promissory note for $600, drawn in 1815, for three months which ran fifty-three years before being paid. The note was discounted by the bank, with a mortgage as collateral, in April, 1816, and was renewed 212 times; $1,907 was paid as interest on the note.

The *Derrick* predicts $2 50 for oil before March.

The Oil City *Derrick* says: A child sadly deformed was born on the South Side yesterday morning. The nose and roof of the mouth was wanting, five fingers were on each hand and six toes on each foot.

Mrs. Jacob Siegfried was wounded in one foot by a rusty nail on January 26th, and died from lockjaw superinduced thereby on the 2d inst. She was seventy-eight years old.

Mr. Borard, hotel keeper of Greensburg, was robbed of between $1,300 and $4,400, one night last week.

LIST OF PATENTS.

Issued from the United States Patent Office to the Citizens of the States of Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Following is the list of patents issued from the United States Patent office to citizens of the States of Pennsylvania and Ohio, for the week ending January 29, 1874, and furnished by the COMMERCIAL from the office of J. NEWTON FERNIE & Co., Counsellors at law and solicitors for American and foreign patents, Washington, D. C.:

PENNSYLVANIA.

Coupling for Steam and Air Brakes—John Y. Smith, Pittsburgh. Application filed November 24, 1873.

Stone Tool—Thomas Joyce, Scranton. Application filed December 20, 1873.

Burial Casket—Isaac Charles, Allegheny City—case D. Application filed August 13, 1873.

OHIO.

Piston Rod Packing—C. H. Fuller, Akron.

Corn Planter—L. Kelly, Troy.

Thill Coupling—L. Lee, Milnore.

Compensating Attachment for Flour Packing Machines—L. Creveling, Akron.

Breech Loading Fire Arms—J. L. Raub, Nevada.

Railway Switch—J. B. Schofield, Caldwell.

Apparatus for Making Paper Bags—W. Wester, Middletown.

Bottle Washing Machine—C, W. Farciot, Kelly's Island.

Repairing Pavements—H. W. Gould, Cleveland.

Harvester—W. H. Maddock and G. F. Seiser, Portsmouth.

Lumber Driver—H. E. Wells, Van Wert.

Harness Buckle—G. Rieger, Dayton.

Egg Carrier—R. H. Mitchell and J. S. Barnett, New Concord.

Auger—H. E. Ladd, Orwell and M. Grover, Windsor.

Apparatus for Dispensing Mineral Water, &c—J. C. Kennedy, Toledo.

Bridge—J. A. Patteson and A. J. Sprague, Toledo.

A Laughable Case of Mistaken Identity.

A ludicrous case of mistaken identity occurred in Montreal recently, through the unfortunate resemblance of two young gentlemen. One of them was recently married, and the other is still a bachelor. The married person went to a dinner party, while the unmarried one went to a convivial entertainment, and, owing to a miscalculation of his capacity for wine, he spoiled his night's amusement. While a glimmer of reason remained he endeavered to get home. By the time the young man reached a cab stand, his mind had become so confused that he was unable to remember his own name or the street in which he lived. As he was engaged in gesticulating to the cab-driver, a friend of the married gentleman noticed his plight, and, confounding his identity, pushed him into a cab, whispered to the driver, and continued on his way. The result of this act was the conveyance of the unmarried man to the home of the married man, where his condition created anything but a pleasant surprise. The wife was, of course, mortified. Subsequently the father-in-law entered the room to remonstrate with him. After wasting much good advice, the father-in-law discovered the mistake, and was in the act of trying to persuade his daughter, probably much against her will, that the young man was not her husband, when the real husband put an end to the dispute by letting himself in at the hall door with a laich-key.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, February 3, 1874.

SENATE.

Mr. Wallace reported a General Insurance bill; also an act relative to private corporations. Both are very lengthy bills. Also to provide for the manner of increasing the capital stock of corporations.

Mr. White—An act regulating county treasurers.

Mr. Playford called up the bills changing venue in civil and criminal cases. Passed on third reading. The State Map bill passed to second reading.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

Mr. Newmyer—A remonstrance of the Temperance Alliance against the repeal of local option.

Mr. Cross, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, reported favorably an act granting one hundred and twenty thousand dollars to the Pennsylvania Reform School, formerly the Western House of Refuge.

Mr. Allison—A petition for the erection of Washington county into a separate judicial district.

Mr. Webb—A petition praying for the publication of legal notices in papers of two political parties.

Petitions were presented for and against local option.

The Judges' Salary bill was called up, Mr. Laidley, of Greene, in the chair.

Speaker McCormick took the floor in support of the bill, and read section 17 of the schedule of the new Constitution.

Mr. Ramey opposed the passage of the bill.

Mr. Newmyer followed, favoring the bill in a forcible speech.

Messrs. Brockway and Orvis supported it, the latter gentleman's remarks being quite interesting and well received.

Without coming to a vote, the hour of adjournment arrived.

Senator Ruffan was attacked with a slight hemorrhage of the lungs this afternoon.

Senator Graham has presented petitions from every college in the State, praying for exemption from taxation.

The announcement of Dr. Sherlock's connection with the Beaver *Radical* does not imply a change in the management of that paper. It is published by the Beaver Printing Company.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, February 4, 1874.

SENATE.

Mr. Cooper—A petition for a law authorizing courts to appoint women as inspectors of the women's department of prisons.

A number of bills passed the second and third reading.

The Senate bill fixing the number of jurors on a Sheriff's inquest in partition, passed.

The bill relative to the issuing of warrants to survey vacant lands was passed, also the bill to correct the defective acknowledgement by husband and wife of deeds of the property of the wife.

The morning was spent in discussing the bill changing the venue in civil cases.

HOUSE.

But two bills were passed up to the second reading, and the House then resumed consideration of the Judicial Salary bill. The question was on the amendment submitted by Mr. Ramey, making the salary of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court $7,000, instead of $9,000; Associate Justices $7,000, instead of $8,000; the salaries of the Judges of the District Courts of Philadelphia and Allegheny $5,000, instead of $7,000, and all other Judges $4,000, instead of $5,000. The amendment was debated at length by Messrs. Ramey, McCormick, Christy, McCreary, Little, Wolfe and Stranahan, when the committee rose and the House adjourned until to-morrow at eleven o'clock.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, February 2, 1874.

The House held sessions on Saturday and to-day, but only demonstrated the folly of holding sessions when there was nothing to do. There was, in reality, not a thing it could do, and after struggling to find a quorum, on both days, it was compelled to adjourn. Until the committees get the bills ready which have been referred to them, there is actually nothing to do but to wait and be patient.

Judging by the letters received by the Allegheny representatives, since the session opened, one would readily conclude that there was a large class of people yet ignorant of the fact that a new Constitution has been adopted. One gentleman, a lawyer, sends down a charter for a new passenger railway company, with all the powers of the Allegheny and Manchester Company, oblivious of the fact that the Legislature cannot now pass railroad charters, and that, if it could, it is specially prohibited from conferring powers by one act which are denied by another. Only after setting forth at length the powers so re-enacted. Another gentleman sends down a bank charter, and a third asks for a railroad pass. All these things will be understood, belong to the

PHILADELPHIA.

NATIONAL IRON AND STEEL CONVENTION.

Meeting of the Associations To-day

Preliminary Meeting Yesterday

Subjects to be Brought Under Consideration

Views of Members on the Tariff, Finance, &c.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

PHILADELPHIA, February 4, 1874.

To-morrow a mass convention of the members of all associations of iron and steel manufacturers in the United States will meet at the Continental Hotel. It will be by far the most important trade meeting ever held in America; not only because of its number (about 800) and the capital represented (about $100,000,000), but because of the vast material interest which its members control. The present financial situation of the country, the threatened action at Washington upon the present tariff of duties on imports, in addition to the general interests of the trade, will the command a large share of attention and elicit the expression of positive and earnest opinions in regard to the efforts of those who would frame a financial and revenue policy inimical to the general welfare. Already about one hundred and fifty delegates from the iron and steel districts in the country, are here. Among the Pittsburghers we notice J. J. Bennett, of Bennett & Orr; Lewis, Bailey and Daniel Campbell; B. Herron, Reese, Brown and Berger, and J. S. Blair. Some of the gentlemen who have already arrived represent from ten to fifteen millions of dollars each.

At the preliminary meeting to-day, at the office of the American Iron and Steel Association, Samuel J. Reeves presiding, a report from the Secretary was read. The further proceedings were not open to members of the press, but from conversations with individuals, the general tone of feeling was obtained. A proposed memorial to Congress will be presented to the convention to-morrow for their action, in which it will be suggested that banks should be prohibited from paying interest on demand deposits, and that an interchangeable bond and currency plan should be adopted by Congress. Hon. D. J. Morrell attributes the late panic largely to the fact that the interest on deposits gradually drew all the money from the country into New York and other money centers. The banks in their turn, had to loan out this money at a similar or higher rates, and whenever any movement of an extraordinary character occurred, the panic came and almost absolutely destroyed the value of securities. This was due the late panic more than to over-trading on the part of manufacturers. The recommendation of the Secretary of the Treasury to the effect that the cost of packing and shipping charges should not be included in the invoice value upon which duties are assessed, will also be considered. Mr. Stebbins, of Detroit, thinks that some plan should be adopted by which the West can be supplied with a good deal of coal, at times, and a less quantity at other seasons; in other words, an elasticity in the current. Mr. Coker, of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, will ask the convention to announce to Congress the favor with which they look on railroad subsidies, and ask that their opinion that those which are now in course of construction should be assisted substantially in their efforts to open the Southern and Western material interests to the markets of the world. Mr. Wood, of Wyandotte, Mich., will offer before the convention a substitute for the 3 65-100 plan, in which the authorization of a receipt of notes on deposit by the Assistant Treasury officials at a small rate of interest, returnable on demand, will be the feature. To-night meetings of the different associations met at the Continental Hotel, interchanged views and took measurers to arrange a plan of union among all the associations. It is intended that the whole body could speak for all in matters of statistics.

By Associated Press.]

PHILADELPHIA, February 4.—The American Iron and Steel Association met to-day. The Secretary submitted a special report, stating that the members of the Iron and Steel Institute of Great Britain will postpone their proposed visit to this country until the time of the Centennial Exposition. In view of the plain duty of Congress, says the report, to repeal the act of 1869, reducing duties on iron 10 per cent. The general iron trade of the country is announced as bat little more prosperous than at the beginning of the panic.

Returns have been received from fifty rail mills, only seventeen being in operation, and from 37 furnaces, of which 27 were in blast and 13 out of blast. There is a stock of iron on hand of 305,430 tons, and 18,000 tons are unsold. It is estimated that in the whole country, 30,000 men are unemployed from the stoppage of furnaces and rail mills.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS—CONSERVATIVE GAINS.

LONDON, February 4.—The Liberal candidate has been returned for Newry, a Irish grain. The borough of Stafford re-elects Thos. Salt, Jr., Conservative, and returns MacDonald, the Workingmen's candidate.

LONDON, February 5.—Returns from 16 constituencies where elections were held yesterday show that 15 Conservatives and 10 Liberals have been elected, or returned unopposed, the latter a Government. The Conservatives have gained the seat for Great Grimsby and two seats for Devonport. Sir Henry John Selwin Ibbetson, Conservative member for West Essex; Wm. Nataniel Massey, Liberal for Tiverton; Henry Charles Lopes, Conservative for Launceston, and Chas. Thos. Dilwyn, Liberal for Hackney, have been re-elected.

Darnell addressed a meeting at Newport, Paggetty, yesterday. In the course of his remarks he said Gladstone's Irish policy had ruined the country instead of producing tranquility in the country, Ireland was now in a more disturbed state and more extensively governed than ever before. He also said that but for the University of London, Lowe would be without a seat in Parliament. His unpopularity was apparent. He was hooted and pelted on any hustings would endanger his life. Throughout the whole of Disraeli's speech a mob pelted with stones the windows of the hall in which the meeting was held. They attempted to break in the meeting, when a free fight ensued. The polling at Hackney has been declared void because of intimidation. At Stalybridge, Lancashire, serious riots occurred during the progress of the election, and many persons were injured. At Dudley, Worcestershire, a conflict occurred between an imported mob of Irishmen and miners. A number of houses were ransacked and mail property destroyed. The riot act was read. All shops were closed, and it was feared that the whole population would fire against the intruders. A company of soldiers was sent from Birmingham to aid the authorities in the restoration of order.

CASUALTIES.

Man Burned Alive Near Tidioute.

TITUSVILLE, PA., February 4.—The residence of Joseph King, near Tidioute, was destroyed by fire this evening. Mr. King, who had just retired, was unable to escape and perished in the flames.

"Newspaper Row"

(From Harper's Magazine.)

The collection of information from a number of army correspondents stationed at different points made it necessary for the leading newspapers to have offices or "news bureaus" at Washington, which have since been kept up, often at a large expense. A number of these offices are located on Fourteenth street, opposite Willard's Hotel, and the locality has been christened "Newspaper Row." A few correspondents are located elsewhere, and some of them, who represent half a dozen or more journals, find it difficult to secure room on the exterior walls of their modest quarters for the pretentious signs which have been sent to them by their different employers, each one of whom boasts in his paper of "our own correspondent," although he only pays for a small fraction of that individual's service.

The Washington offices of the more important newspapers in distant cities have each its suit of apartments, comprising ante-room, reading room and reporters' room, beyond which is the carefully guarded "sanctum sanctorum" of the chief correspondent, with a trusty janitor as his body-guard. In this retreat any one who has information to communicate can be kept securely from interlopers until he has been "pumped" dry of all that he may know or surmise.

A Washington chief correspondent is expected to be omnipresent himself, beside keeping his subordinates at work. He must daily visit the White House, the executive departments, call at the hotels, drop in upon communicative Congressmen at their rooms, dine with diplomats, chat with promenaders on the avenue, listen to the conversation of strangers who may be his fellow passengers in the street cars—in short, he must ever be on the *qui vive* for "items" on week days, Sundays and holidays.

The items are then prepared for the Capitol, where the chief correspondents have to keep the run of business before the different committees, look out for Executive communications and nominations, and occupy their allotted seats in the reporters' galleries of the Senate or the House, whenever any question of public interest is up. At other times they are generally to be seen in the ante-rooms to the reporters' galleries where they hold informal sessions of their own, often indulging in commentary and gossiping on the halls near by in a manner not over-complimentary to those honorable Senators and Representatives who are there engaged in legislation. But let a vote of any importance be taken, a report of interest be made, or anything else happen of value as "news," and the correspondents are at once at work, hastening to "make a column of it," and then to start with the most undignified speed for the nearest telegraphic operator.

Torpedoes.

New modes of warfare mark the advance of civilization. From bows and arrows we have passed to gunpowder, and from galleys we have advanced to steam-frigates and ironclads. It is generally believed that the revolution in naval warfare which has been caused by the introduction of iron clads, is to be in its turn superseded by the employment of torpedoes, and the day yet may come when our sea battles will be fought, not from the decks of frigates or the dark interiors of monitors, but beneath the surface of the sea and by the aid of electric batteries.

For the last fifty years inventors have tried to discover some means by which torpedoes could be secretly affixed to the bottom of hostile ships and safely exploded. A number of boats intended for submarine navigation have been built and tried. They have sunk out of sight without any difficulty, but they have shown a uniform reluctance to return to the surface again. One of these boats drowned three successive crews of Confederate sailors in Charleston harbor, and now lies with her ghastly burden at the bottom of the bay. It has been pretty well established that no plan of torpedo warfare which involves submarine navigation can be successful, and we may now regard experiments in that direction as at an end.

During the war the Confederates made extensive use of torpedoes anchored in channels where Federal war ships were expected to pass. Several of our ships were destroyed by this means, and the utility of torpedoes for harbor defense was fully demonstrated. It still remained, however, to devise a system by which a torpedo could be sent from shipboard to the shore and exploded with certainty under a hostile vessel. This, it is claimed, has now been done, and experiments have been for some time making, by our naval authorities, with an invention which seems in every way to meet the end desired.

The new torpedo machine can, it is claimed, be sent a distance of two or three miles under the surface of the water. No crew accompanies it, but it is directed by electricity communicated along a flexible wire. The enemy can offer no resistance to it, and unless they seek safety in flight must be infallibly destroyed. It is upon this invention that the government especially relies in case of a naval war, and if it stands tests of actual service as well as it has stood that of scientific experiments, we can congratulate ourselves on the possession of an invincible weapon.

THE BRAUENLEIN TRAGEDY

Second Day of Lizzie Killien's Trial.

The Prisoner's Reputed Confession Ruled Out.

Case for the Commonwealth Closed.

WITNESSES FOR THE DEFENSE EXAMINED.

Important Circumstantial Evidence Adduced—Clothes of the Murdered Woman Found in Lizzie's Possession Identified—Detective Messner Undertakes to Instruct the Court, but is Promptly Squelched.

The trial of Lizzie Schnettler *nee* Killien for the murder of the old mendicant, Mrs. Brauenlein, was resumed Wednesday morning at nine o'clock, in the Court of Oyer and Terminer, Judges Sterrett and Collier on the bench. The prisoner occupied a seat to the rear of her counsel, and divided her gaze between the witnesses and the jury. She listened to every utterance with the most scrutinizing attention, whether by the court, the counsel or the witnesses. While the goods and clothing of the murdered woman, which had been found in her possession, were being identified, she would look at each article with ordinary interest. Whilst her counsel, after the prosecution had closed, was addressing the jury, she became visibly affected; but this emotion was changed to a smile, when the first witness, young Frank Schnettler was putting his testimony. She was dressed neatly and plainly, and, though evidently feeling her position, gave no very tangible evidences, other than during the address of her counsel to the jury, already mentioned of conscious guilt. The court room was crowded, and the space within the bar pretty well filled by lawyers and witnesses. We have hereto fore given the names of the counsel in the case.

Morning Session.

On the opening of Court the first witness called by the prosecution was Mr. Anthony Bepler, who testified as follows:

Anthony Bepler sworn—Knew Mrs. Brauenlein; live on Wylie street; the witness testified to the fact of his having gone to the murdered woman's house with Mrs. Zweck and Mrs. Schnettler on Saturday morning; the rest of his testimony was substantially as given by Mrs. Dollman; he did not see any blood upon the floor, nor did he ever before see the bloody hatchet said to have been found in the house.

LIZZIE ON MT. WASHINGTON.

Jacob Loffel testified that he lived on Mt. Washington and kept a grocery store and Varieties; he saw Lizzie on the 16th of October, between five and six o'clock in the evening at his own house: this was Thursday; he had a house to rent, and Lizzie asked him to let her have the keys to look at the house; between nine and ten o'clock she came back and said she would take the house; it was on Sunday that he had heard that the family to whom he had rented the house were arrested; the witness had never seen Lizzie before the time she went for the keys; she said they were a young couple, and she gave the name of Schettler; the witness did not notice that she was excited, nor did he notice that she was not excited; moreover, he never got the keys back, which answered the purpose.

ABOUT A KEY—LIZZIE'S ARREST.

Patrick Pender, sworn—He and Mr. Long, two of the Mayor's police, visited Lizzie's house on Mt. Washington and found there a key in the table drawer; the house was locked, not fit any of the doors; the key was tried in the door of the room where the dead body was found, and there fitted; Lizzie was arrested on Saturday.

James Scott, another of the Mayor's officers, was sworn, and testified to his having obtained several articles in Lizzie's house on Mount Washington, among which was found worked easily in Mrs. Brauenlein's door.

Samuel Long, another detective, was sworn, and testified that he and Messner arrested Lizzie in her house on Sunday, the 19th; also, her supposed husband. The key was marked after it was tried in Mrs. Brauenlein's door.

MRS. BRAUENLEIN BEFORE THE MURDER.

Mary Schiffhauser, sworn—Live at 31 Center avenue; knew Mrs. Brauenlein for fifteen or sixteen years; last saw her alive on Thursday afternoon before she was killed; she was well and hearty as usual; was in my house; she would hunt for a living and her good friends would help along; she was after some work that day and I told her to come again the next day; she completed all the knitting I gave her; she was at our house one or two days a week and lived for many years on Clay alley.

ABOUT A WEDDING RING.

Julia Freiberger, sworn—She testified that she lived in the Thirteenth ward and knew Margaret Brauenlein for nine years; had frequently visited her and had seen some of her bed clothing, the like of which she had never seen before; identified (shown) the white quilt; stated that these were like the ones she saw in Mrs. Brauenlein's room; Mrs. Brauenlein had two feather beds: the witness was not in the house after the murder; never saw a wedding ring on her or in her room, did not know of her having any valuables about the house, except a large gold ring which she had shown the witness the last time she was there; she said it was her husband's wedding ring; the witness saw the ring again before the Coroner's jury: the deceased had kept her room nice and neat; her trunks were full, and she had a great many things hanging up.

Cross-examined by Mr. Moore—The ring had a broad set, with a yellowish red stone and was somewhat heavy; would know it should I see it; I recognize the shawl, bed spread and these other articles, because I had never seen anything like them before.

IDENTIFYING MRS. BRAUENLEIN'S GOODS.

Mrs. Zweck, re-called—The bedding being shown the witness, she identified the feather-bed. The shawl was shown and the witness stated that the deceased used to wear a shawl like that, and had told her it was a German shawl. The deceased had a watch; it was a silver watch; it was a watch like that (a watch shown.)

Cross-examined—I identify the feather-bed by a patch on it; I washed the bed for her and that patch was on it; I cannot swear positively that the shawl and coverlid belonged to Mrs. Brauenlein, because there are many like them.

LIZZIE'S CLOTHING.

Lena Hornberger sworn—Saw Mrs. Brauenlein about a week before she died; knew Lizzie Killien; was acquainted with her for several months; she lived with us; knew Lizzie's clothing; (different articles of wearing apparel were shown, but the witness could identify none as having been by her in Lizzie's possession, except a pocket handkerchief; Lizzie did not have very many clothes; she left our house about a month before Mrs. Brauenlein was found dead; while at our house she did washing; I made some of her clothing, but none of the articles are among those shown here (flannel skirt and calico shirt waist shown); I know these articles; they belonged to Lizzie.

Cross-examined—Lizzie slept in the same room with me, and kept her clothing in the room; she lived with us eight months; I know all of Lizzie's clothing.

A LAMP.

Josephine Byerly, sworn—Was at Mrs. Brauenlein's house quite often; knew some of her property (lamp shown); that lamp looks like the one which was in her room (bedding shown); think I saw bedding like that in the room of Mrs. Brauenlein.

Mrs. Margaret Moser, sworn—Am a sister of John Schnettler; don't know whether Lizzie is married or not; she lived at our house from September to November; when she left early between she went to a house rented from Mr. Soffee; clothing was here exhibited, but the witness had never seen any of it). Witness then identified a flannel and calico waist as belonging to Lizzie; Lizzie had no bed while she was in my house; neither did she have a watch.

To Judge Sterrett—Lizzie left my house on the Wednesday before the murder; she returned on Tuesday evening, got something and went up to her own house; she was at my house again on Saturday.

Lizzie Decker was sworn, and identified a cover-lid as belonging to Mrs. Brauenlein.

LIZZIE COUNTING MONEY.

R. M. Spahn—Live near Mrs. Brauenlein's house; it was about dinner time when I first heard of the murder; I saw Lizzie on Friday morning between five and six o'clock sitting on a little step, at the time I passed she seemed to be counting money with a little boy—one of the Schneidman family. I found on a pink sack and a red garment; there were few people astir at that hour.

WHAT THE NEIGHBORS SAID.

Mrs. Schiffhauer re-called. Mr. Bayne—Will you state whether or not it was reported in the neighborhood that Mrs. Brauenlein was possessed of articles of silverware and other valuables?

Objected to.

Objection sustained on the ground that the question was improper.

The question was modified, and the witness asked if she knew what was thought in the community about Mrs. Brauenlein having valuables. The witness answered the question in the affirmative. Counsel for prosecution then desired to press the former question for the purpose of showing a motive for the deed, but the defense objected to it as being incompetent, there being no offer to connect the defendant with knowledge of such rumor; indeed, the defendant could not understand English at all, which would lessen the probability of her having heard such a report. The District Attorney said he could show the fact that many Germans lived in the neighborhood.

It was now half-past twelve, and the court ordered a recess until a quarter past one o'clock. In the meantime the proposition of the counsel for the prosecution would be taken into consideration.

Afternoon Session.

Court re-assembled promptly at half-past one o'clock P. M., and announced that it had concluded to rule out the question put by Mr. Bayne at the close of the morning session.

THE MURDERED WOMAN'S CLOTHES IN LIZZIE'S BASKET.

Elizabeth Remenneider, sworn—Knew Mrs. Brauenlein just when I saw her; knew where she lived; knew Lizzie only by sight too; saw Lizzie a couple of days before I heard of the death on Saturday - Lizzie I saw in my house; she was working for me while I was sick; this day I refer to she went out and asked me for a quarter, which I gave to her; after that I did not see her; in the morning of Thursday, about seven o'clock, I gave her the money; I recollect now, on Friday I saw her at ten or eleven o'clock on Centre avenue, near the engine house; I asked where she got her basket of clothes; she wouldn't tell me; I asked her where she was going; she said she was going to Coal Hill and that I need not tell anybody; she said she was going to be married; she was going down to the cars and I helped her in; it was a clothes basket she had, little Kirsch's girl was with her; she told me she had been living with Mr. Hamburger; she had just left there.

Cross examined—The basket was heavy; I couldn't see through it; it was the Wylie avenue cars she wanted to get to.

To Judge Sterrett—She was in a hurry and seemed uneasy and had nothing on her head.

To Mr. Moore—She seemed uneasy at our house, too; she was there on Wednesday, too; I don't know where Lizzie was on Friday night; when I saw her she was going down Centre avenue; I was going up the hill at the time; I stopped and talked to her, I think about five minutes; when I first saw her she had the basket on the ground; I knew before just when I saw her; I only talked for a while as she was in my own house; I first noticed her uneasy manner on Wednesday evening; she was in a hurry that evening; she wanted to go home; she left about half-past five o'clock.

A BED.

Miss Sadie Hastings, sworn—In October last I was employed in Mr. Beacox's second-hand furniture store on Wylie street; Lizzie, this defendant, I saw on a Thursday evening of that month in the store; she was with a man and came to purchase furniture; on Friday morning Lizzie came down early and got some furniture; she had with her a large striped clothes basket with a bed in it; while there she untied the bed, and I saw it had a patch on it (bedding shown); that was the bedding I saw, to the best of my belief; left the store at 8 o'clock; there until 1 o'clock on Friday afternoon, when she called and got it.

Cross-examined—There was nothing in the basket but the bedding; it was tied up in a sheet; she paid five dollars for what furniture she got the next morning; when she left Friday morning she went up Wylie avenue.

Leonard Jacob Beacox—I saw the witness this defendant; she came to my store on Friday—somewhere about one or two o'clock Friday afternoon; she was there again on Friday morning; the second time she brought a basket with her, which I think had some dishes in; this was the same basket that she brought the bed clothing in and took away; identified the clothing at the store (Frank Schnettler here stood up and the witness thought he recognized him as the boy who came with Lizzie and Mrs. Schnettler); identified (shown) not to, distinguish the clothing while she was gone.

LIZZIE MOVES TO THE MOUNT.—

Charles Fox, sworn—Was an express driver in October last: I hauled a load of furniture for this defendant from Mr. Beacox's to Mt. Washington in that month; Lizzie and a smaller boy than Frank were with me; I hauled a cooking stove and some bedding besides some furniture; the woman called herself English to me while we were going up; when we got to the house Lizzie came along and opened the door with a key; I was putting the furniture through a window at the time.

THE BLOODY CLOTHES.

Dr. Thorn, recalled—(Several articles of clothing shown). These articles I saw on on Monday following the murder, and they were stained with blood, partially washed out; I don't know of my own knowledge where these articles were discovered.

Cross-examined—The appearance of the skirt I saw showed that the blood was wiped out rather than washed out: I did not make an analysis of the blood; was not requested.

THE DEFENSE AT WORK.

Officer Long, recalled—It was on Monday I visited the house on Mt. Washington; this bedding I saw there; this gown I found in the vault, thrown into the cesspool on the premises. (This was the gown found with the blood.) The blood on it was much plainer than it is now. I also got a German padlock and key in the same place; I was there when this petticoat was found; the petticoat was in the house.

Cross-examined—Was there three times; found two pillows, bed, coverlet, &c.; was over again with Mr. Wilmot, and these are the articles (pointing them out in the pile the ones to which he referred); the clothes have never been out of the custody of the law since found.

Officer Seth Wilmot was here re-called and required to refresh his memory in respect to the articles of clothing found in the house. Witness pointed out a number of bloody articles which he brought from Lizzie's house on Mt. Washington. His further testified: Found in Mrs. Brauenlein's room, in Schnettler-lein's except a knife, two forks and a spoon; the rest were brought from Mt. Washington; officer Murphy had the house in charge for about a week after the murder; don't know where the key in possession of the officer came from; heard that it came from Mr. Zweck's.

Officer James Murphy, sworn—Am a member of the city police force; was detailed by the Mayor to take charge of Mrs. Brauenlein's house.

Cross-examined—Was put in charge on Saturday night; got a key from Mr. Zweck to unlock the house; did not make a list of articles in the room; there was a bed, chairs, stove and some articles of clothing; don't recognize any of these articles as being a part of those I saw there; any key would unlock the door, as the lock was a very ordinary one; felt satisfied the officers did use the key he had to get into the house when they went after those articles.

LIZZIE'S REPORTED CONFESSION TO OFFICER MESSNER.

John Messner sworn—Helped to arrest Lizzie on Mt. Washington on Monday morning; had a conversation with her on Tuesday evening, and another on Wednesday morning; asked her what she had to tell me; the conversation was in front of her cell; don't understood the position she was in; reminded her of the different articles and the proofs which were already against her; told her Mr. Long had found bloody clothing in the house, which had already been identified as belonging to her; further told her that several pieces of bed clothing had been brought from old Mrs. Brauenlein's house with blood upon them; further informed her that taking all the circumstances into consideration, I advised her to tell the whole truth as it would be better for her; she commenced to weep; she then said "Mr. Messner will you

DO FOR ME ALL YOU CAN;"

I replied if you tell me the truth fair and square, I will do all for you that my duty as an officer will allow; I then told her to tell me how the matter stood; she wept and said she had the headache, and told me she would see me in the morning and tell me; she had to tell me; witness was proceeding to tell what had happened the next morning, when counsel for the defense objected to the recital, but court overruled the objection.

Detective Messner resumed—I went to her about eight or nine o'clock the next morning; asked her how she had slept during the night; she replied that she had not slept at all; couldn't sleep; I then told her to tell me the truth how this matter stood; she said she would tell me all she knew about it, provided I would not take her up before so many people (meaning the Coroner's jury); she then told me that she would tell me all but to say about it: I then proposed to bring down a couple of gentlemen, and she said she would tell all she had to say about it: I then asked her if she would tell it to me alone; she replied no; she would tell me all she had to say to her "you know there are about six persons accused for this crime." I then said some of them are locked up, and some are not; if you will tell me the truth then that is all right so far as any of the implicated have any knowledge of it; I asked her if any of the other persons had been in it, or if she had done it alone.

OFFICER MESSNER'S BAD GERMAN.

[The interpreter at this point stated that Messner's German was so bad that it could not be rendered even in bad English.]

Mr. Messner continued—Before this I had told her to tell the truth and nothing but the truth; that this would be the only way by which she would be benefited.

Counsel for the prisoner again objected to the witness stating anything Lizzie had said.

In answer to a question from Mr. Moore, witness stated that the prisoner was much broken down; she was not kneeling on the pavement at any time during our interview.

Mr. Moore—Do you not recollect that he objected to the reception of Lizzie's statement, on the ground that it was extorted, under the inducement held out by the officer that he would help her, and that it was taking an unfair advantage of the prisoner.

District Attorney Bayne maintained that the officer had held out no inducement to her by benefit; only a fair trial as far as lay in his power.

A MERITED REBUKE.

Detective Messner here interrupted the counsel, and attempted to instruct the court as to how the thing should be done. The Court very promptly checked him by the remark that his action in the matter was the worst feature in the whole business.

The Court then ruled that as inducements had been held out by Detective Messner, and as the confession was not voluntary, the evidence was inadmissible.

THE COMMONWEALTH CLOSED—THE DEFENSE.

The Commonwealth here rested, and Mr. Moore for the defense addressed the jury. He claimed that the months of important witnesses for the defense were sealed by their owners being jointly indicted, and by the ragtag detective system. He proposed to show by the evidence for the prosecution that it was impossible for the defendant to have committed the crime on the night alleged. Nothing had yet been adduced tending to show that even a murder had been committed. He proposed to prove, by what he considered indisputable evidence, that the prisoner could not have committed the murder. It was for the jury to weigh the evidence that would be adduced, and determine whether or not the prisoner should go to her grave or go forth to liberty.

(At this point the prisoner became visibly affected.)

The first witness called for the defense was Frank Schuettler, son of old Mr. Schuettler, a youth of sixteen years. He was sworn and testified as follows: Am a son of my father; his name is also Frank; live in the house of the old woman's death until Saturday night; work at Ewart's; was not at home during the day on Thursday; when I got home mother, Lizzie and my two little sisters were at home; my pap and John were not at home for some time; there was washing done that day; after supper

LIZZIE AND JOHN WENT OUT

to buy furniture; went out as soon as they got supper; got home about nine o'clock; came in by the alley way; slept in the room under Mrs. Brauenlein's room; there were three beds in our room; we all went to bed about the same time; didn't lie awake very long; there are steps coming up from the kitchen to the room we slept in; don't know on which side of the bed Lizzie slept; got up the next morning at half-past five; don't know how soon Lizzie got up; mother and Lizzie were in the kitchen when I came down; Lizzie and I were

NOT COUNTING MONEY;

she gave me five cents to buy apples; when I got the money I walked off; saw John on Friday at noon; didn't talk much to him; went up to Coal Hill on Friday night; John fixed up the stove; slept in the same room with Lizzie and John; I slept on the floor; John and I went to work next morning at half-past five; on Thursday night the door was locked in the room at home, where I slept; I didn't hear anything on that night; don't know whether a fight in the room above would have awakened me.

SLEPT HARD THAT NIGHT.

Cross-examined—I sleep hard; didn't say at the Coroner's investigation that they would have to tear the house down to waken me; don't know whether anybody was in bed when I went to bed or not; slept on an old straw tick on Friday night at Lizzie's house; Lizzie didn't have much scrip when she gave me the money; Lizzie behaved first rate on Friday night on Coal Hill.

OLD MR. SCHEUTTLER TESTIFIES.

Frank Scheuttler, Sr., was sworn, and, through the Court Interpreter, testified as follows: Didn't know of the murder until I came home on Saturday night, when my folks told me of it; on Thursday night Lizzie slept in the house; knew about Lizzie and John went out that night; do not sleep very sound; nobody can get in or out of the room without my hearing it; could hear from our upper room an ordinary footstep in Mrs. Brauenlein's room; could hear loud talking in her room from our room, but could not distinguish the words; if a scuffle, the upsetting of a stove, or dragging a body over the floor had taken place on that Thursday night, I or the "Missus" would have heard, and would at once have gone up and awakened the landlord, and told him there was something wrong going on in Mrs. Brauenlein's.

"HEARD A NOISE."

Cross-examined—I did swear before the coroner's jury that in the evening, while I was sitting out on the step, I heard a noise like the falling of a chair, and I say so now; I would have mentioned it before, but I thought you would ask me.

By Mr. Swartzwelder—Did you not testify a moment ago that you did not hear any noise that night?

Witness—Yes, I did; but that was after I had gone to bed; when I heard the noise it was only twilight.

At this point the trial was adjourned until this morning at 9 o'clock, and all witnesses, whether examined or not, were notified to be present.

The court of Oyer and Terminer reassembled at nine o'clock Wednesday morning, and the trial of Lizzie Killien, alias Schnettler, alias Brauenlein was resumed, Jacob Soffel was again called and another attachment issued for him. Upon his appearance, he plead sickness in his family as an excuse for his detention, and was let off by paying the costs in the attachments issued for him.

Dr. Donnelly, Annie Freiberger, George Schnettler, Fred. Snyder, Godfreid Schneitler and Catharine Schnettler, witnesses, were examined for the defense, but nothing material elicited from them. Mrs. Moser, John Bepler, Mrs. Zweck, Hastings and Charles Fox were recalled also by the defense, but their evidence was only a recapitulation of what has been given.

ARGUMENT OF THE DEFENSE.

Upon the conclusion of Mrs. Nagle's testimony, counsel for the prosecution announced that they had no rebutting evidence to offer, and Mr. Siebencked opened for the defense.

He began by stating that the incentive which had urged the detectives to move heaven and earth to compass the conviction of the prisoner was to reinstate themselves in the estimation of the public, after their unmitigated failures to bring criminals to justice. In the last few months, consequently circumstances over which the prisoner at the bar had no control were magnified until, in the night-time of the public, they amounted to positive proof. He held that the law in the case of goods stolen and found in the possession of a party following the persons prophetic of innocence, upon the latter party, and not upon the former. The honors of the day, ranging at Washington, Western Union, Lake Shore and Pacific and Pacific Mail were the chief features.

There may be some comfort to the "longs" in Pacific Mail to read the remarks of the New York *Post* on the very discouraging reports published by the directors of the company. We'therefore quote:

"But for the respectable names attached there would be room for the suspicion that the publication of these statements was intended to depress the market price of the stock, particularly as 23 steamers are put in, with lighters, at a total valuation of $1,556,500, from the official statement issued and dated June 6, 1873. Throwing out the two lighters, which are now worth an average value of less than $49,000 each, and included in this list are the five Japan steamers built, two in 1868, two in 1867, and one in 1865, for the China route; and, if we remember correctly, each cost not far from $1,000,000."

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, &c., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange, during the day. Furnished by Luther S. Kauffman, broker, 96 Fourth avenue:

February 4, 1874.	10:30	11:30	12:30	1:30	2:30	3:30
Gold	111½	111½	111½	111½	111½	111½
Western Union Teleg'h	76¾	76¾	76¾	76¾	76¾	76¾
Pacific Mail	25¾	25¾	25¾	25¾	25¾	25¾
Adams Express	94	94	94	94	.....	.....
Wells Fargo Express	84	84	84	84	.....	.....
American Express	64¾	64¾	63½	.....	.....	.....
United States Express	.....	.....	50	.....	.....	.....
New York Central	103¾	103¾	103¾	103¾	104¼	104¼
Erie	22	22	22	22	22	22
Michigan Central	92	92	92	92	92	92
Michigan Southern	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾
Illinois Central	124	124	124	124	124	124
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	93¾	93¾	93¾	93¾	93¾	93¾
Chicago & Northwestern	26¾	26¾	26¾	26¾	26¾	26¾
Do Preferred	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rock Island	105¾	105¾	105¾	105¾	105¾	105¾
St. Paul	26¾	26¾	26¾	26¾	26¾	26¾
Do Preferred	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wabash	55¾	55¾	55¾	55¾	55¾	55¾
Fort Wayne	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ohio and Mississippi	34¾	34¾	34¾	34¾	34¾	34¾
Toledo & Wabash	46¾	46¾	46¾	46¾	46¾	46¾
Chicago and Alton	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Terre Haute	13¾	13¾	13¾	13¾	13¾	13¾
A. & P. Preferred	19	19	19	19½	.....	.....

—The following are the quotations for government and State bonds received by wire from New York to-day:

	Bid.	Asked.
U. S. 6s, 1881	117	117½
U. S. 6s, 1881, coupons	118¾	118¾
5-20s, 1865	116¾	116¾
5-20s, 1864	116¾	116¾
5-20s, 1865	116¾	116¾
5-20s, 1867	116¾	116¾
5-20s, 1868	116¾	116¾
10-40s	110¾	110¾
10-40s, coupons	114¾	115¾
New 5 per cents	115¾	115¾
New 5 per cents	113¾	113¾
STATE BONDS.		
Tennessee	81	81½
Tennessee, new	81	81½
South Carolina, April	9	9¼
South Carolina, July	9	9¼
Missouri 6s	93	93

—Robinson & Co., bankers, Fourth avenue, furnish the following report of active stocks at the Philadelphia Board:

Penna 6s	49¾
Penna. Scrip	75
Reading	121¼
United Co.'s N. J.	120¾
Oil Creek	17¾
Lehigh Valley	64
A. V. R. R. 7-30	91
Central Transportation	43
Empire Transportation	49

IRON MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, February 5, 1874.

The following are the ruling quotations of the market:

FLAT BAR.

1¾ to 4 by ¾ to 1	1¾ and 1¾ by ¾ to ⅞ inch
4¾ to 6 by ¾ to 1 inch	3 8-10c
4¾ to 6 by ¾ to 1 inch	3 8-10c
1¾ to 6 by ⅛ to ¼ inch	4 6-10c
1¾ to 6 by ⅝ and ¾ by ⅛ to ¼ inch	3 7-10c

ROUND AND SQUARE.

1 to 1¾ inch	3 8-10c
2 to 2¾ inch	3 6-10c
3 to 3¾ inch	3 6-10c
3¾ to 4 inch	3 8-10c
¾ to ⅞ inch	3 5-10c
⅝ to 9-16 inch	3 6-10c

HORSE SHOE.

All sizes	4 8-10c

HEAVY BANDS.

¾ to 6 by ¼ and 5-16 inch	3 9-10c
1¾ to 2½ by 9-16 to ⅝ No. 12	4 5-10c

HOOPS.

2¾ to 3 inch	4 6-10
3½ to 4¾ "	4 8-10
5 to 6 "	5 1-10
1¾ to 1¾ "	5 1-10
1¾ to 1¾ "	4 1-10

OVAL IRON.

¾ to 1¾ inch	3 9-10c
¾ to ¾ inch	4 1-10c

HALF OVAL AND HALF ROUND.

¾ to 1¾ inch	4 9-10c
¾ to ¾ inch	4 7-10c
¾ to ¾ inch	4 5-10c
⅜ inch	5 4-10c

TANK IRON.

Boiled.	Flanging.	Boiled.
3-16, ¼ and ⅝ inch	5 8-10c	5 9-10c
Boiler plate	5 8-10c	5 9-10c
Heads, not flanging, 6 2-10c		

SHEET IRON.

	Boiled.	Charcoal.	Juniata.
No. 10 to 14	5 3-10c	6 8-10c	8 3-10c
No. 15 to 20	5 3-10c	7 8-10c	8 5-10c
No. 21 to 24	5 7-10c	7 2-10c	8 7-10c
No. 25 to 26	5 9-10c	7 4-10c	8 9-10c
No. 27	6 1-10c	7 6-10c	1-10c

CORDAGE MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, February 5, 1874.

The following are the quotations:

MANILA ROPE.

	Cts. ₰ ℔
⅛ inch diameter and upward	18
¾ inch diameter	18¼
⅜ and 5-16 in diameter	19
Tarred rope and lath yarn

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1874.

Wanted.

WEEKLY COMMERCIALS of the following dates to complete our files: February 9th, July 18th and September 18th 1873, and March 1st, 1873.

LAST week's imports at the port of New York were, for dry goods, $2,727,250; for merchandise, $3,156,722; total, $5,883,972.

THE prosperity of California would seem to be ingrained. The value of the wheat shipped from San Francisco during the past year is estimated in round numbers at twenty-five millions of dollars.

ONE of the members of the Massachusetts Legislature has introduced a bill to compel married men to support their mothers-in-law, if necessary. There is little likelihood that the measure will pass. Most of his colleagues will unquestionably prefer to have this class of relatives placed on the retired list and pensioned by the State.

IT IS to be hoped that, in whatever direction Congress may retrench and economize, it will not cripple the signal service in any way. The value of the daily bulletin of weather probabilities to commercial and other interests, has been so clearly established and so fully recognized, that a wise economy would suggest an extension rather than contraction of its present sphere of usefulness.

A FURTHER indication of steadily increasing business prosperity consists in the fact—noted in the New York papers—that collections are very much better this year than they were last. Thus far during the present month, in some of the largest houses, they have been at the rate of seven per cent. over those of January, 1873. This result upon old obligations is both favorable and hopeful.

THE official statement of the dry goods importations at the port of New York for January of the present year, has just been published. The total valuation of these imports amounted to $8,815,674, a decrease as compared with January, 1873, of $3,857,308, and in comparison with 1872 a decline of $6,584,871. The indications point to a light spring trade in imported British and European goods.

LASHED at length out of their sodden Bourbon stupor, the Kentucky legislative reactionists have reconsidered their sullen refusal to permit the national flag to be hoisted over the capitol during the session of the Legislature, and it now floats above them in serene pity for their little, crawling spite. Thick-hided as they were, they, too, writhed, at last, under the keen whip of the people's scorn: as, in the end, does every public fool and wrong-doer.

THE lower branch of the Illinois Legislature has just passed a compulsory Education bill, and most of the Chicago papers are urging the Senate to indorse it without delay. Yet Chicago has public school accommodation for less than half her children. Ten thousand additional scholars would like to crowd in, and cannot. Would it not look better and more consistent to make some sort of provision for the willing and waiting, before undertaking to compel the reluctant?

NOT a bad idea. Senator HOWE, of Wisconsin, wants a law passed providing that upon the recommittal of a claim which has been once rejected, the claimant shall pay costs; if he appears the third time, he shall be sent to the State prison, and if he comes the fourth time he shall be hanged. Everybody ought to have his proper deserts—and in this manner those of a large number of "claimants" to whom justice would never, else, be done, might possibly be recompensed to them.

IT APPEARING that nearly all the savings banks in Pennsylvania are corporations having capital stock from which the owners derive profit in the shape of dividends, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue has held that all such saving funds are liable to tax, on the ground that the present act exempts from taxation only such savings banks as have no capital and are used simply as depositories for the money of the poor. The savings banks, claiming otherwise, have appealed to Congress to determine the question.

THE Attorney General of the State, in an official communication to Major W. B. NEELY, President of the Common Council, has decided that "the present Councils *are the legal Councils* of the city of Pittsburgh." He further decides that the present members of Councils "are *not* affected by the question whether the Constitution took effect on the first of January, or at the date of the "Governor's proclamation." This covers the case of School Directors, and all persons who may be in office on the third Tuesday of February next.

THE Secretary of the Council of Foreign Bondholders has addressed a letter to a member of the North Carolina Legislature, offering some general counsel with regard to the management of the State debt, which now amounts to thirty-five million dollars, the largest part of the increase being a fraudulent issue of bonds for the benefit of railroad companies in 1868 and 1869. There is a proposition before the Legislature to scale the debt at thirty cents on the dollar, but it seems doubtful whether it will pass. The Old North State appears to be inevitably drifting towards the disgrace of repudiation.

A NUMBER of Southern Congressmen, it is said, demand that Congress shall so legislate that money will find its way South, manufactories, etc., spring up in that section, and its resources be developed. This being the case, and the tone of their request being so peremptory, it might not be a bad idea for that body to enact a law compelling the people of that section to cut themselves loose from their preposterous political and social theories, and their personal disinclination for work—and to roll up their sleeves, man-fashion, and *begin*—that be the only sure and certain way of bringing about the fulfillment of the Southern need.

THE leading journals of the country, irrespective of party, concur generally in the opinion that the commercial outlook is exceedingly encouraging. A revival of business in all departments is anticipated. Factories are gradually resuming operations and producing fabrics at a fair profit. The banks are in a sound condition. The crops have been good, and the farmers show a greater disposition to organize for the purpose of self-improvement and instruction in the principles of thorough, systematic farming, than they ever manifested before. On the whole, the resources of the country are everywhere rapidly recovering their natural impetus.

AN important decision has just been rendered by the United States District Court of Michigan, wherein a creditor who surrendered a mortgage and took a new one covering additional property, within four months prior to an act of bankruptcy by the debtor, was held to have lost his claim altogether, the mortgage being declared in fraud by the Bankrupt act, and the creditor, not having surrendered this fraudulent preference, being debarred from proving his claim. It is not unlikely that there may be other creditors in various parts of the country whose relations to their debtors would not at first be known—bring them within the operation of the principle of this decision.

FROM present appearances, the controversy between the Pennsylvania Central and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad companies, bids fair to last as long as the roads have an existence. The latest strategic movement of the latter corporation is a plan for the construction of another air-line between New York and Philadelphia, in opposition to the former company. The contemplated road is to be constructed in accordance with the free railroad laws of this State and New Jersey, and it is said that the capital for the enterprise will be furnished by prominent Philadelphians, New Yorkers and Jersey men. Fight away, Titans, the people fully appreciate the benefits which your gigantic struggle is conferring upon them.

AS THE result of an extended series of careful inquiries among employers and employed, the New York *Tribune* estimates that, including all the trades and day laborers, twenty per cent. of the workingmen of that city are idle, or have so little work that they may be counted as such. It should, however, be borne in mind that January and February are invariably the dullest months of the year for working people, and that in the best of seasons a very large proportion of people in the great building trades are unoccupied. It is evident that the communistic cranks who clamor for "bread or blood," and prefer the latter to honest hard work for the former, have greatly exaggerated the number of the unemployed and the extent of suffering among them.

THE British Board of Trade returns for last year contain one item which is particularly commended to the consideration of that class of political economists who doubt the soundness of that policy that would reduce our imports and increase our exports, as a means of bringing the exchanges more in our favor. In 1872 there were 467,304 tons of railroad iron, 64,553 tons of bar, angle, bolt and rod iron, and 196,151 tons of pig iron imported, while in 1873 the amount was—of railroad iron, 185,702 tons; pig iron, 102,624 tons, and of bar and other kinds of iron, 23,036 tons, making a difference of upwards of twenty millions of dollars in iron alone. We are interested to know what conclusions free traders will be likely to deduce from these protectionist facts.

HERBERT SPENCER ON CRIME.

Readers of the writings of Mr. HERBERT SPENCER, with whatever adverse prejudices they may take them up, can hardly fail to form a high estimate of the intellect and knowledge of the author. At the same time, it is equally true that unless readers of his writings are controlled by very strong prejudices in his favor, unless they have already, as the result of his brilliant reputation among a certain limited class, learned to regard him as the author of a new gospel to be accepted with gratitude and without careful scrutiny, they can hardly fail to wonder at the facility with which he gets rid of inconvenient obstructions in the line of his philosophical march. Mr. SPENCER's latest publication is a little book on "The Study of Sociology," which was intended and is likely to be more popular than any of the larger works by which the author has become known. It was designed to be a sort of introduction to an extensive work on the "Principles of Sociology" which Mr. SPENCER is preparing, but it is, in fact, made to comprehend a good many topics which were probably never before thought of by anybody as being directly or indirectly included in the subject of sociology. As intimated in the preface, the author has made this preliminary volume the medium through which to publish various material which had accumulated on his hands because he could find no place for its use in former books. Apparently from his early youth accustomed to take for granted that the doctrines generally received were most likely erroneous, that prevalent prejudices were most likely foolish, and that actual customs had most likely no root in reason, Mr. SPENCER's mind naturally, in the course of time, became an immense depository of facts and arguments which seemed to justify his antagonism. That in this statement we do not place the beginning of his opposition too early, may be fairly inferred from the complacency with which in this little book he boasts of "having, when young, effectually resisted that classical culture," which has for so many centuries in Christendom been deemed a needful element in education. Nor has he ever had any misgivings as to the wisdom of his "resistance." With evident pride he confesses that he "knows absolutely nothing of the masterpieces of ancient literature in the original and very little in translation." In itself considered, the fact may be in no way discreditable to Mr. SPENCER. As a metaphysician or philosopher and organizer of the sciences he may have felt no need of a knowledge of antiquity. And yet doubtless there are in his writings paragraphs not a few which he neither could nor would have written if his penetrating intellect and extensive knowledge of modern science had been reinforced by familiarity with the history and speculations of ancient men.

Then, when a professed philosopher and teacher of his kind so frankly proclaims his ignorance of antiquity in its literary sources, does the confession raise or confirm the presumption that he has mastered the history and social and political institutions of mediæval and modern men? And whatever his accomplishments as a philosopher may be, it would really seem that a man not adequately furnished with such knowledge, has a poor prospect of producing a very useful work on sociology, no matter how many able coadjutors he may employ to collect and systematize facts for him.

It may, however, be plausibly alleged that a profound knowledge of human nature in all its recesses, and perfect familiarity with the living world of various nationalities, afford more trustworthy guidance in the treatment of social questions than any light derivable from the past. And that Mr. SPENCER has vast knowledge of that kind, it would be very foolish to deny. Indeed, as one reads the little book on the "Study of Sociology," one is every now and then tempted to believe that the author is the only writer of the time, or even of all time, who sees things as they really are, and not only as they appear. In truth, any one who unresistingly accepts the author's criticisms of his countrymen's opinions and prejudices, hopes and apprehensions, can hardly help concluding that Mr. SPENCER is almost the only wise man in Great Britain, while all the others are mere slaves to the "shows of things." On reflection, however, it becomes manifest that Mr. SPENCER often derives his notions of the views and expectations of others, not from their own account of them, but from the depths of his own moral consciousness. Like the famous German philosopher drew his knowledge of the camel. Take, for example, his diatribe on the present zeal with which Englishmen agitate the subject of popular education. Mr. SPENCER derides all those who quote statistics to show that education prevents crime. They rely, he says, on "statistical fallacies," and forget to ask "whether other statistics, similarly drawn up, would not prove, with like conclusiveness, that crime is caused by absence of ablutions, or by lack of clean linen, or by bad ventilation, or by want of separate bedrooms." Ignorance, argues Mr. SPENCER, like the other conditions named, is merely a "concomitant of crime," and that mere intellectual culture would make no change in the relation. Crime, he says, is "really connected with an inferior mode of life, itself usually consequent on original inferiority of nature."

It is safe to say that no American or Englishman accustomed to attend church failed to hear among the earliest teachings of the pulpit that mere knowledge or mere training of the intellect never has and never will make men virtuous or prevent crime. In religious circles it is a truism. But it is equally true that knowledge, education is a positively useful possession which, as far as it goes, may serve to relieve the condition of its possessor, and so far place him above the temptations in which crime is constantly originating. Both the Secularists and the Denominationalists to whom Mr. SPENCER alludes, also include moral instruction in their conception of education, and the training of intellectual and moral is certainly the only means known or conceivable of reaching and bettering "the original inferiority of nature" in which crime is assumed to originate.

Mr. SPENCER in his criticism ignores the fact that there are abundant statistics in which pains have been taken to eliminate or make sufficient allowance for other elements, and from which the conclusion is inevitable that mere illiteracy is a most fruitful source of crime. In New England where only seven per cent. of the population above the age of ten years are unable to read and write, eighty per cent. of all the crimes is committed by the ignorant seven per cent. The statistics of New York, Pennsylvania and other States exhibit the same significant fact. In all these cases Mr. SPENCER's suggestion that ignorance is only one of many conditions existing together and constituting "an inferior mode of life" which favors crime, is sufficiently met with the familiar fact that, in the United States, where other circumstances favor, education received by boys most disadvantageously placed as regards birth and breeding, enables them, as a rule, honestly to rise above their class and to become useful citizens.

CURIOSITIES OF DIPLOMACY.

Marquis DE NOAILLES, the French Minister, will leave the United States, this week or next week, to assume at Rome the position to which he has been transferred by the government of President MACMAHON. It is said that during his brief term of office in this country, the Marquis has so acquitted himself as to give unmingled satisfaction to his compatriots both official and non-official, and indeed to acquire a degree of prestige in diplomacy which recommends him as the right man for the performance of difficult duties. It is also said that the Marquis's personal qualities and antecedents render him peculiarly fit to represent his country in Rome just at the present time, when the relations between France and Italy call for the most delicate and adroit handling on the part of both rulers and diplomatists.

All the world knows how much France needs, if possible, to make friends among her neighbors; how important it is for her to avoid kindling enmity or even exciting momentary irritation. Sober-minded Frenchmen, no doubt, feel not only that they have a certain right to the good will of the Italians, but that if they can not secure *their* good will, they may as well despair of securing the good will of any European people. They both call themselves members of the "Latin race;" they are both Catholic, and they are next door neighbors. Frenchmen moreover keep in lively remembrance the assistance they gave the Italians in gradually establishing their national unity, while they perhaps do not retain so well in memory either the compensation required and received for the aid rendered, or those acts of meddling and interference with Italian affairs which in Italian minds cannot but somewhat mitigate gratitude in the recollection. With whatever modification, however, it is not to be denied that Italians were largely predisposed to recognize the fitness of agreeable or even intimate relations with their French neighbors and to reciprocate all moderate professions of friendship on their part. For generations French influence had been strong among them, French books and French journals being nearly the only foreign literature they cared for, and with whatever dislike of the arrogance of individual Frenchmen, most Italians outside of the colleges, could hardly hesitate in choice between a permanent French and a permanent German alliance. The "evil odor" of the Tedeschi, their old oppressors, could not be wholly overcome by the advantageous Prussian partnership which had given them Rome as their capital.

Unfortunately for a close Franco-Italian friendship, the Italians in order to establish their unity and independence and to occupy their capital, had to deliver five hundred thousand of their countrymen from the "senile despotism," we mean, the paternal rule of the supreme Pontiff. They had to overthrow the temporal power—an act which to a powerful party in France seemed a piece of atrocious sacrilege. Hence in its relations with Italy the French government has always felt bound to consult the feelings of this party, with the result of greatly alienating the Italians and of at length placing them in close alliance with Germany for their own safety and for the maintenance of their position in Rome. French diplomacy in Rome has in fact become one of the historical curiosities of the time. M. THIERS as President of the Republic, by placing a Minister plenipotentiary with full suite and appointments at the court of VICTOR EMMANUEL, recognized Italian unity as an accomplished fact, and a large majority of the French people have no disposition to question its right or propriety. But in deference to the sentiments of the Ultramontane party, the French government has been and is represented at the Quirinal of the Vatican by an ambassador who, as Mr. ABOUT lately said, is paid to ignore the existence of the King and Kingdom of Italy. In other words, this French representative with the Pope officially assumes that the Papal States have never been annexed to Italy, and that PIUS IX. is still a temporal sovereign, temporarily restricted in the exercise of his power by the lawless conduct of the same king whom the other French representative regards and treats as the friend and ally of his nation.

It must be admitted that the French government is beautifully consistent in its inconsistency. The ambassador who resides at the Vatican has at his disposition a completely equipped French ship of war, the Orenoque, which is stationed at Civita Vecchia, and which is kept there for the mere purpose of rescuing and bearing away the Holy Father if at any time he should find it necessary or expedient to escape from his imaginary imprisonment. The presence of the ship might fairly be regarded by the Italians as a standing insult, as it was placed and is kept there on the pretense that the Pope's life is not quite safe in their hands. This, however, is an old affront, as the Orenoque has been several years at the place. An instance of the insults to which the Italians are exposed on the part of the French adherents of His Holiness has occurred recently. A gentleman, Colonel DE LA HAYE, attached to the French Legation and a favorite in Italian society, having died, arrangements were made to celebrate the funeral rites in the church of St. Louis, the church of the embassy, and as the deceased had been a soldier, the Italian army was to be represented at the ceremonies. But the priests attached to the church, acting under sanction of the French representative at the Vatican, positively refused to admit the body into their church for the express reason that the Italian army and government were to be represented on the occasion. The funeral therefore, took place in another church.

Evidently Marquis de NOAILLES has a difficult task before him, if he hopes to prevail on the Italians to exchange their German friendship for an alliance offensive and defensive with France.

NOVEL REFORM MOVEMENT.

Highland county and some other counties in the State of Ohio have lately been the scenes of what may be called a new development of the temperance movement. It is certainly a novel method of waging war upon the sellers of intoxicating drinks. Perhaps the method alluded to owes its origin to the inventive genius of an Indiana woman; indeed, we feel pretty sure that it was first practised somewhere in the State of Indiana, but on a small and insignificant scale, and to the women of Ohio fairly belongs the credit of fully putting it to the test of repeated experiment and of thus proving its efficacy beyond the possibility of doubt or cavil. They, however, appear to think as yet so modestly of their own labors and to be so indifferent about the publication of their success that we owe our entire knowledge on the subject to the reports of the liquor sellers or their friends. One's cause must be very bad indeed, too atrociously bad for any decent adjective to characterize, if it cannot be so represented as to command at least a little sympathy from those who have not heard the other side, and it is therefore not surprising that in the narratives of the victims of this new warfare there are touches of pathos which even the most zealous champion of temperance may not wholly resist. Where in Illinois, Ohio, etc., the women, taking advantage of recent legislation, visit the saloons and beer houses with menace and denunciation in eye and mouth, and with the whole power of the government at their back, the proprietor, if a man of spirit, could feel no special embarrassment. While he might be somewhat awed, or even terrified, he could still feel himself on the solid ground of familiar realities, and could manfully confront his feminine enemies with such weapons of logic and retort as were kept ready for use. Even defeat in the conflict, even an adverse decision of a magistrate and the spoiling of his goods to compensate a bill of damages, might only confirm the patient or impatient host in the justice of his cause by enabling him the more clearly to realize his own martyrdom and the bitterness of the persecution of which he had become the victim.

But no such consolation or support is available for the unhappy vender of spirits when assailed in the new method which has lately caused such panic and desolation in Highland and other counties of Ohio, and of which we have too long delayed to give some account. According to the sufferers by this new method of moral reform and their sympathizers, a preacher of Puritan proclivities is usually the first to start the movement in a village or neighborhood. He delivers a discourse in which he maintains that social order, Christianity, the general welfare and domestic happiness all require that whisky and beer be banished from society. He also points out that the ben eficent end may easily be effected anywhere without acts of violence or violation of the laws, through the mere power of prayer and by affectionate admonition and exhortation, and the preacher further declares that women as the great promoters of good morals, and as mistresses of the arts of soft persuasion are the right agents for the accomplishment of the blessed work. An organization is then speedily effected of all the women willing to be thus useful; if possible, so many as a couple of hundred of them are enlisted. They then form in column and march to the saloon or drinking house, whose keeper they agree first to lay siege to. A committee, consisting of the boldest and most ready-tongued of the party soon come to close quarters with the keeper and implore him for the sake of his own salvation and the public morality voluntarily to leave off his mischievous and perilous traffic. If this request is refused, the petitioners beg of him at least to let them hold a prayer meeting in his saloon, and if that is also denied them, they then hold their prayer meeting on the street. Of course the meeting soon becomes a large one, people passing along becoming spectators of the scene, and all are exhorted to join in the prayer that the hard heart of the corrupter of manners within may be softened. Naturally the meeting presently becomes stormy, and the beleaguered seller of beer and whisky very commonly before long arrives at the conclusion that the best thing for him to do is to comply with the request to which he at first refused to hearken. "In this manner," says a correspondent of the Louisville *Anzeiger*, "in more than a dozen little towns of Ohio all the drinking places have been prayed away." According to another authority, in Hillsborough most of the liquor sellers have taken to fight, transferring their stores to Cincinnati. Those who still continue in the business are stated to be besieged night and day by parties of praying and singing women—a statement which seems to conflict with the assertion of the correspondent already quoted that the liquor sellers give way in fear of the violence which the prayers of the women lead them to anticipate, if they defy the spiritual weapon. Upon the whole, we are much inclined to believe that the merchants in question are simply confounded and terrified by the complete novelty of the means adopted to influence them, filled with terrors never felt before at the knowledge that the case against them has been taken by appeal to a court which they have no fancy for defying. Be that as it may, it is not at all likely that any acts of violence have been intended in connection with the strange movement, nor is it charged that any such acts have been committed. In such a population as that of the most secluded village in Ohio, a single instance of violence would undoubtedly throw discredit on the devotional part of the proceeding.

The method is certainly a very strange way of promoting the cause of good morals. It at least indicates the decided convictions entertained by those who adopt it as to the desperate nature of the evil, and even the most eccentric expression of such convictions on the part of many, may produce good results for a while in small communities. There is, however, no reason to believe that they will be either permanent or exempt from perilous reaction in the direction of evil.

WE HAVE several times of late noted the steadily growing monetary plethora in New York. It appears that the same tendency is observable in nearly all the leading business centers of the country. The New York *Bulletin* gives data to show that at Boston rates of discount have fallen almost to the prices that usually prevail in summer, while at Philadelphia, both at the banks and on the street, the supply is largely in excess of current wants, lenders finding it difficult to obtain temporary employment for all the funds at their disposal. Baltimore, too, reports a like accumulation of funds, with the supply for days past in excess of the demand; and at Chicago, currency is coming in freely from the sections southwest and directly west of there, while the only direction in which it is going out seems to be Northern Iowa and Southern Minnesota, where the high price of wheat is still causing an active movement to market of what they have on hand. At St. Louis the banks complain that discounts are not sought in anything like a proper ratio to the supply of funds offering, and Louisville advises a plentiful supply, with a light demand. The Cincinnati market is also characterized as in a comfortable working condition, with little apparent demand for speculative purposes—and so on throughout nearly the whole country. The *Bulletin* is a careful and conscientious journal, whose presentations of fact may always be confidently relied on. Its statement of the existing monetary condition augurs very favorably for the activity of the approaching spring trade.

SOFT words butter no parsnips. Are "Reformers" the best agents of "reform?" The present city government of New York, which was elected on a platform of the strictest honesty, economy and retrenchment, has added ten millions of dollars to the city indebtedness during the past year, a fact that is sufficiently self-interpretative to enable everybody to understand it without the help of any explanatory jargon. So, too, the city of Chicago recently elected for its municipal officers the candidates of a "People's party," a large number of the best men in the community supporting the movement under the impression that they were really thereby contributing to the advancement of the best interests of the city. Yet this is what the Chicago *Times*, which threw the whole weight of its influence in favor of the "People's ticket," feels compelled to say concerning the outcome of the experiment. It charges that the new mayor has gathered about him "a body guard of bummers, gamblers, and bad aldermen;" that "the city was never so overrun with thieves and bad characters as at the present moment;" that the government "has disorganized the police, demoralized the council, and disgusted everybody;" and finally, that "eight weeks" of the new *regime* "have nauseated the metropolis." Other cities which have ventured upon similar hazards have also reaped results of like character. History has been defined as "philosophy teaching by example?" Hence it is naturally to be hoped people elsewhere will duly profit by the warning.

HOWEVER it may be elsewhere, the married women of Illinois may hereafter form trade co-partnerships or carry on business for themselves, under the sanction of the opinion of the highest judicial tribunal of that State, the Supreme Court, on last Saturday, in deciding a case which involved the point at issue, holding it to be contrary to reason and judgment to suppose that it was within the contemplation of the Legislature, in conferring upon married women the right to possess their own earnings, and to sue for the same in their own names, that it was to be limited to such only as should result from manual labor, or that in conferring upon them the right to have their separate property under their own separate control, and to enjoy the same as though they were unmarried, they were to be restricted in its use or disposition. The right to control is indispensable to the acquisition of earnings and to the unrestricted possession and enjoyment of the property. In removing the common law restrictions upon woman's right to acquire and to control her property, the Legislature left her to determine, at all events when her husband shall not object, from the dictates of her own judgment, what lawful pursuit she will engage, and whether it shall be prosecuted alone or in conjunction with others. This decision definitively settles a question which has been in vexatious dispute ever since the passage of the law under reference.

CONNECTICUT being one of the first States in each year to hold a general election, a considerable degree of interest is felt throughout the country in political movements there; and this interest has increased of late years on account of the closely balanced condition of parties in the State. The approaching April election, therefore, is exciting a good deal of attention in political circles. The Democracy appear to think they have secured permanent control of the government, but Republicans say there has not been a time in five years when there was a more favorable opportunity to elect a Republican Governor than is now approaching, provided, of course, that the party nominates a good ticket throughout and supports it with something of the old fashioned zeal—and there is no earthly reason why there should not be perfect harmony in the ranks. The election of a Democratic Governor and Legislature would be due to gains owing, not to Democratic conversions, but local feuds and dissensions among Republicans. These causes will not be combined again; and if the close and doubtful towns are carefully looked after, there should be no difficulty in the way of making both branches of the General Assembly Republican, and there is a strong incentive to do all that can be done in that direction, as a United States Senator is to be chosen in place of Senator BUCKINGHAM.

THE famous steamboat bill, introduced last session, will shortly be reported to the House by the committee which has had it under consideration. A number of alterations have been made in its provisions, which, it is thought, will considerably enhance the value of the measure. The bill, as it stands with the amendments, provides that no loose hay, straw, cotton, hemp, or similar material shall be carried on any steamboat, except where there is no other public means of conveyance, and in such cases its transportation shall be under the regulations of the inspectors; and no product of petroleum is to be used for illuminating purposes unless it will stand a test at 150 deg. Fahrenheit. Relative to steam boilers, the bill provides that if the rivet holes are fairly drilled, instead of punched, an addition of 25 per cent. to the working pressure for single riveting is allowed; 120 pounds pressure per square inch is the maximum permitted for iron boilers, and 130 for those of steel. Steamboat men, and other persons connected with inland navigation, are reported to be greatly in favor of the amendments, and it is thought by those most interested that the bill, if passed, will offer greater security to both life and property than was ever before possible.

THE indications of an active spring trade are unusually encouraging. In addition to the general resumption of the iron, cotton, woolen and other industries of the country, the Southern cotton crop now promising to bring upwards of a million of dollars into that section in a favorable position for meeting their wants. The movemens of produce from the interior to the seaboard, too, continue with an activity limited only by the facilities of transportation, and when these are enlarged by the resumption of navigation, which is likely to take place a good deal earlier than usual this year, an activity of business may be expected which will go far to restore the full degree of prosperity that was checked by the panic of last fall. The grain shipments from the ports of Chicago, Milwaukee, Toledo and Duluth by lake and rail, from January 1 to 17, were 4,540,234 bushels, against 1,300,638 bushels for the corresponding period of last year, and 1,383,072 bushels for the corresponding period of 1872. Prices have also ruled firm, to the corresponding advantage of the farmers and of the Western country merchants; new purchases of which latter class in the Eastern markets will be commensurably extensive.

A NUMBER of vexatious lawsuits having at different times arisen in Missouri from the latitude taken by commercial agents in making reports of the mercantile standing of merchants in St. Louis and other portions of that State, and much dissatisfaction being felt concerning the alleged abuses of the system, a bill has just been introduced in the Legislature to prevent the evils complained of. The measure, which is quite comprehensive in its scope and character, provides that every such commercial agent shall file a bond in the sum of thirty thousand dollars for the faithful performance of his duties; that every statement concerning the business standing of any person shall be duplicated and kept on file in his office for examination upon the order of the court, and that every person who may consider himself injured by the publication of untrue reports may institute suit for damages; the meaning and effect of any statement, causing the injury sued for, to be deemed a question of fact, and parol evidence to be admissible to assist in determining such meaning and effect. The passage of a similar law is also contemplated in Illinois and some other Western States.

GENERAL FOSTER, one of the leading horticulturists of Iowa, writes to the *Western Farmer* that he "would give $1,000 this year if any one would save him from the ravages of insects." His acreage is only a trifle over two hundred. The damage annually inflicted by these pests amounts to many millions of dollars, and it seems a strange that so little attention should heretofore have been paid by our farmers to a matter of such great importance. One of the most economical and effective means of preventing this wholesale destruction, would probably be found in the general introduction of the common English sparrow, which can be bred in this country with perfect success, and the rapidity of whose increase is wonderful. An eminent English author, in a late treatise on "Husbandry and Gardening," shows from actual observation that a pair of sparrows, during the time they feed their young, destroy on an average 3,360 caterpillars each week. If every farmer alive to the best interests of his calling would send for a few pairs and take the care of them that many do of pigeons, he would be repaid fifty-fold for his outlay. The various Granges of the country would do well to profit by this hint.

THE fact that the exports of Great Britain for last year were a hundred and fifteen million pounds sterling less than the imports, and that most of the principal industries of that country were more or less adversely affected during that period, is beginning to create a doubt in the mind of its leading journals whether the commercial supremacy of England has not only actually reached, but also passed, its highest point, and whether it does not betoken a still further slackening of industries, which must in turn produce a corresponding falling off in wages and general consumption. Considerable anxiety is manifested concerning the future outlook, nor does the manifest intention of our own country to adhere firmly to the protective policy under which its multitudinous industries have developed so rapidly, at all tend to lessen the prevailing solicitude.

NOTWITHSTANDING that Maryland failed to elect a Republican United States Senator the other day, she is fast ridding herself of the producing causes of past Democratic ascendancy. She is building a greater number of school houses than in any former year, and yet the demand for more and better houses is still on the increase. There is also more inquiry for experienced and well qualified teachers, and a greater willingness to pay them adequate salaries. Several new high schools have been established; some academies on the old foundation have been transformed into public high schools; everywhere the spirit of intelligent quest is actively abroad. Only let her maintain her present rate of fundamental progress, and her future will be as noble as the noblest ambition could desire.

COL. MCCLURE'S acceptance of the Democratic nomination for the Philadelphia Mayoralty, was in this heroic wise: "The people have formed their own lines and ordered an advance. Say to them that I will not be found in the rear."

"IS PATRICK O'FLANNIGAN on board this ship?" cried great NELSON from his quarterdeck, during a temporary lull in the terrific cannonading of the battle of the Nile. "He is, your honor," was the response that came from a man in a red flannel shirt and blue overalls, who at that moment stuck his head through the hatchway. "IS PATRICK O'FLANNIGAN on board this ship?" said NELSON in still louder tones than before. "He is, your riverence, and I am that man." "Then let the battle go on," responded NELSON. And it was won.

OHIO NEWS.

The Cleveland *Leader* was awake long enough, the other day, to say: "Ohio had Ben Wade a long time ago, but this is the first time the country has ever known her Waite."

The game laws of Ohio forbid the shooting of quail, turkey and rabbit between the first of February and the fifteenth of October. Sportsmen should take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

The Noble county dogs have a partiality for mutton; they recently appropriated forty-five at one sitting out of a flock owned by Thomas Larrick, of Buffalo township. Preserve the budding pup.

The Alliance Rolling Mill Company made, during the past year, 19,250 rails, and used 3,371 tons of coal. They paid out for labor during the year, $228,155 51.

Sixty-three persons have united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, at Alliance, during the progress of the revival there.

Avaricious milkmen, read and tremble! A bill has been introduced into the State Legislature to fine and imprison persons who adulterate milk. The milkman in whose can of "dope" floated a minnow, would come under the penalties of the law. Whether the bill provides for the appointment of milk inspectors, charged with the duty of standing at street corners with lactometers, and testing the contents of passing milk cans, we do not know.

Three men prominent in the early history of Northwestern Ohio, have recently died. Jesup W. Scott, of Toledo, Sardis Birchard, of Fremont, Judge Higgins, of Washington.

THE British Parliament, which has just been dissolved by Queen Victoria at the instance of her premier, was the eighth of her reign, and met on the 10th of December, 1868. It would not have attained the constitutional limits of seven years until 1875, but since 1826 only one Parliament has existed for more than six years. The longest Parliament recorded in English history was that elected in 1661, which existed nearly seventeen years, and the shortest that elected in 1830, which only lasted five months and twenty-six days. The House of Commons now consists of 658 members, of whom 493 are from England and Wales, sixty from Scotland, and 105 from Ireland. The number of electors on the register in June, 1872, was 2,574,039, namely: 2,094,781 in England and Wales, 255,751 in Scotland, and 223,507 in Ireland. Since 1872 all elections for members of Parliament must be by ballot. When the late Parliament met, the liberals had a majority of 112, but the petition of the two great English parties has since been modified by new elections and by grave dissensions among the liberals.

THE Bankrupt law now in force is not only ruinous, in many cases, to debtors as well as creditors, but it causes an immense waste of money in fees and other expenses. From a partial statement made by the Attorney General, it appears that from March 24, 1867, to January 31st, 1873, the fees and expenses of assignees have been $1,043,022; fees and expenses of clerks, $942,792; fees and expenses of marshals, $1,001,954; fees and expenses of registers, $1,768,340; miscellaneous expenses, $105,068; total expenses, $4,821,784. A law under which such a vast sum from the estates of bankrupts is wasted in fees and court expenses, either ought to be repealed at once or essentially modified.

THERE is on Roanoke Island, N. C., a grape-vine called the "Scuppernong"—by some "the Lord Raleigh Vine"—which was growing when Sir Walter landed on that island, 1610. It was then three inches in diameter, and was spoken of as the largest grapevine in the world. It now covers one and a half acres, and last year yielded forty-six barrels of wine, 1,840 gallons in all, which sold for two dollars per gallon, yielding $3,680. This season, however, a young grapevin in Terrill county, which is said to be larger than the Raleigh vine, and to produce at least a fourth more. This Terrill vine produced last year sixty-three barrels of wine, 2,520 gallons in all, which also sold for two dollars per gallon, yielding the handsome sum of $5,040.

ST. LOUIS is agitated over the question, has a man a right to his own clothes? The discussion has arisen in this wise: A man had his clothes stolen from his room, and a few days afterward they were found in the pawnshop and the thief arrested. He applied for his garments, and was told by the officers he could have them upon payment of the amount advanced by the pawnbroker to the thief. This he refused to do, believing a man had a right to his own property without the payment of such claims. He applied to the mayor: the mayor referred his case to the police commissioners, who refused to aid the owner. The clothes are now in possession of another pawnbroker (with a charge of $2 25 thereon), and left there by one of the detective police.

THE cities of Italy are far from being healthy; and every well person who visits them must encounter certain and dangerous risks. Typhus fever, dysentery and other diseases which are contingent upon bad drainage and filth generally, are far more prevalent there than is acknowledged. It is useless attempting to hide the statistics of deaths among foreigners, the frequency of which any one at all observant knows very well is attributable to the detestable uncleanliness of the Italian cities. This is especially deplorable in the instance of Americans, who form half the support of the continental resorts, and who come professedly in search of that health which can be had so much nearer home—on the Florida coast in winter and in the summer at the seaside.

A PAPER recently appeared in a German magazine, showing not only that the sap does not freeze in trees and plants which live through hard winters, but also the reason why it does not freeze. The writer says that though it is true water, as we generally see and understand it, freezes at thirty-two degrees, it does not do so when its particles are finely divided. Tropical plants have large cells, and these are the ones in which the sap freezes; but in plants with very small cells in which the liquid particles are finely divided, there is no freezing of the liquids until after the structure has received injury of some sort. This is true, he says, of insects and insect pupæ.

IN DECEMBER.

BY RICHARD REALF.

O Life, do you know what has happened?
O World, did you see what took place?
Poised Sun in the center of Heaven,
Do you feel a new glow in your face?
Sweet eyes of ineffable midnight,
Can you tell why your look is so fair?
Blithe salts in the hearts of the oceans,
Have you guessed the young balm in the air?

She has kissed me—my darling, my darling!
I have drank the delight of her lips:
The Universe melted to ether,
Mortality swooned in eclipse:
A Presence of Light grew before me—
I heard a far rushing of wings;
The kings of the earth were as beggars,
And the beggars of earth were as kings.

She has kissed me—my darling, my darling!
(Ah, heart! our sore famine is past):
Is it strange that the Winter treads softly—
Is it strange that the snow does not last?
That the sap in the trees runneth fairly,
That the children are out-doors at play:
That the lilacs are thinking of April,
And the lilies are dreaming of May?

Faint lips, which her breath has anointed,
Sad soul, whom her loving hath crowned;
Hot hands, that were cooled by her claspings,
Tired feet, that have trodden her ground—
Not the fathers of Truth must be truer,
Not the mothers of martyrs more pure:
She has kissed me—my darling, my darling!
O Spirit: Be glad, and endure.

MEETING OF THE FLOWERS.

BY EMMA BURT.

A seeing spirit passed in storied lands;
And, 'mongst the immortal graves whose dust commands
Our babbie into silence, she would brood,
Wooed by the holy voice of Solitude.
Some tombs were reared in wonder—carved and wrought
With perfect symbols of heart-perfect thought,
And dear devices of impassioned care:
And others leaned neglected, lone and bare
As trees in winter. Natheless, all the same
'Round them stray blossoms bloomed. The traveler came,
And, looking in their rare, uplifted eyes,
Wistful with meanings caught from Paradise,
Pincked them with clean, revering fingers—laid
Them gently in a white-leaved book, and said
Those were her treasures—but they are their own:
She is the noeless: day and night, when none
Are near, they whisper softly of the great
On whom, when mortals die, they tireless wait:
Hinting, with odorous ecstacy and plaint,
Of Poet, Knight, Philosopher and Saint.

LITTLE BY LITTLE.

When the new years come and the old years go,
How, little by little, all things grow!
All things grow—and all decay—
Little by little passing away.
Little by little, on fertile plain,
Ripen the harvest of golden grain,
Waving and dashing in the sun,
Then gathered in, and the work is done;
Little by little they ripen so
As the new years come and the old years go.

Low on the ground an acorn lies,
Little by little it moulds to the skies,
Shadow and shelter for wandering herds,
Home for a hundred singing birds.
Little by little the great rocks grew,
Long, long ago when the world was new;
Little by little and slowly, stately and free,
Cities of coral under the sea
Little by little are builded—while so—
The new years come and the old years go.

Little by little old tasks are done;
So are the crowns of the faithful won